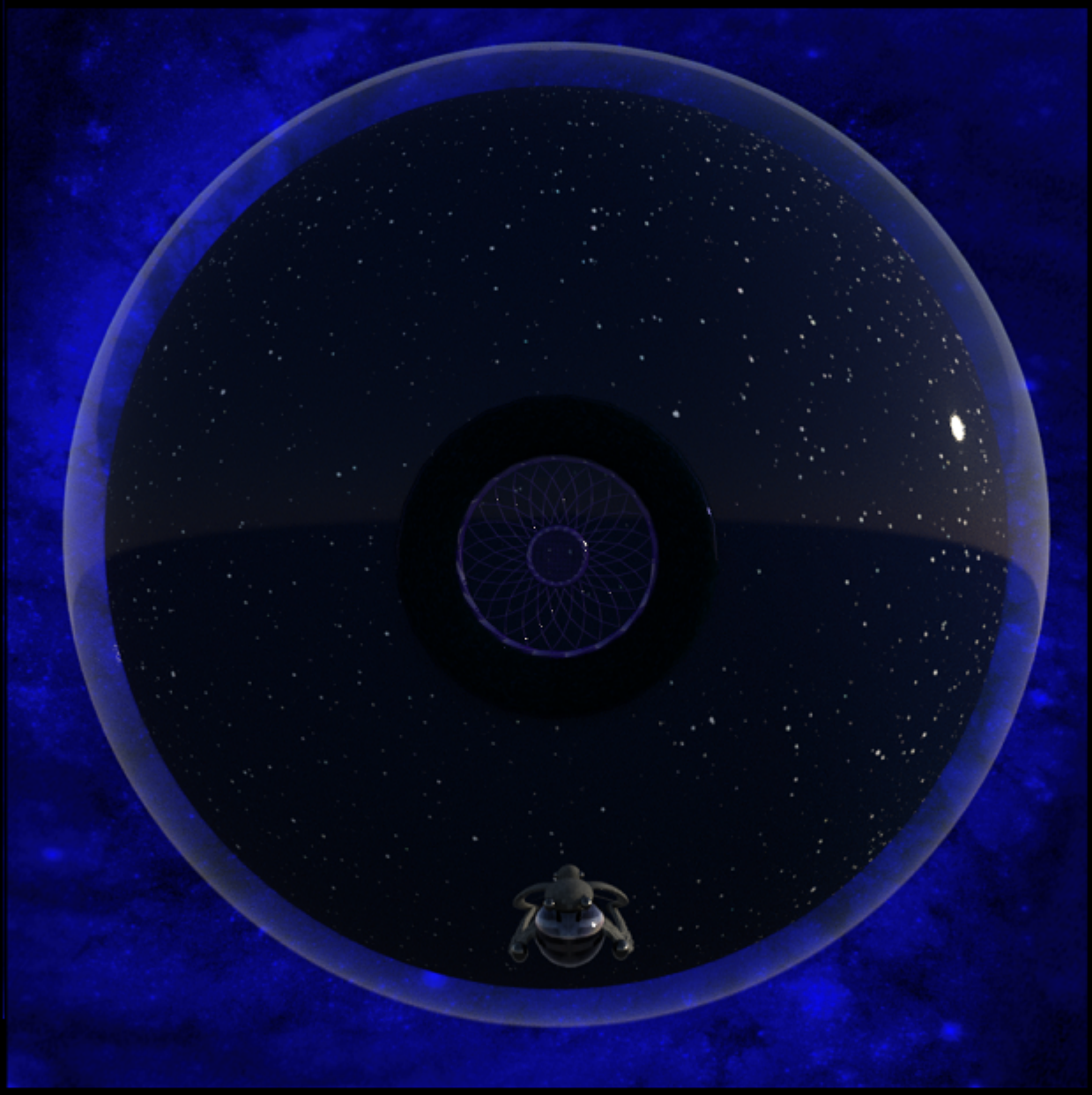
DREAM MATRIX
DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE



BY: JIM DROOM

I absolutely oppose all violence.

I love and worship Jesus Christ, the Son of God. I thank Him and the Holy Ghost for giving me this story.

DREAM MATRIX
DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE

This book used many photos, illustrations and video stills from royalty-free sources and from the public domain. This book also used some of my own personal photography. - Jim Droom

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NOTE: Jim Droom is my pen name.

Down the Rabbit Hole

by: jim droom

Barry and Merma

by: chesler comics
and jim droom

Charles and Jeriel Hardy

by: centaur comics
and jim droom

The Marvel Family

by: fawcett comics
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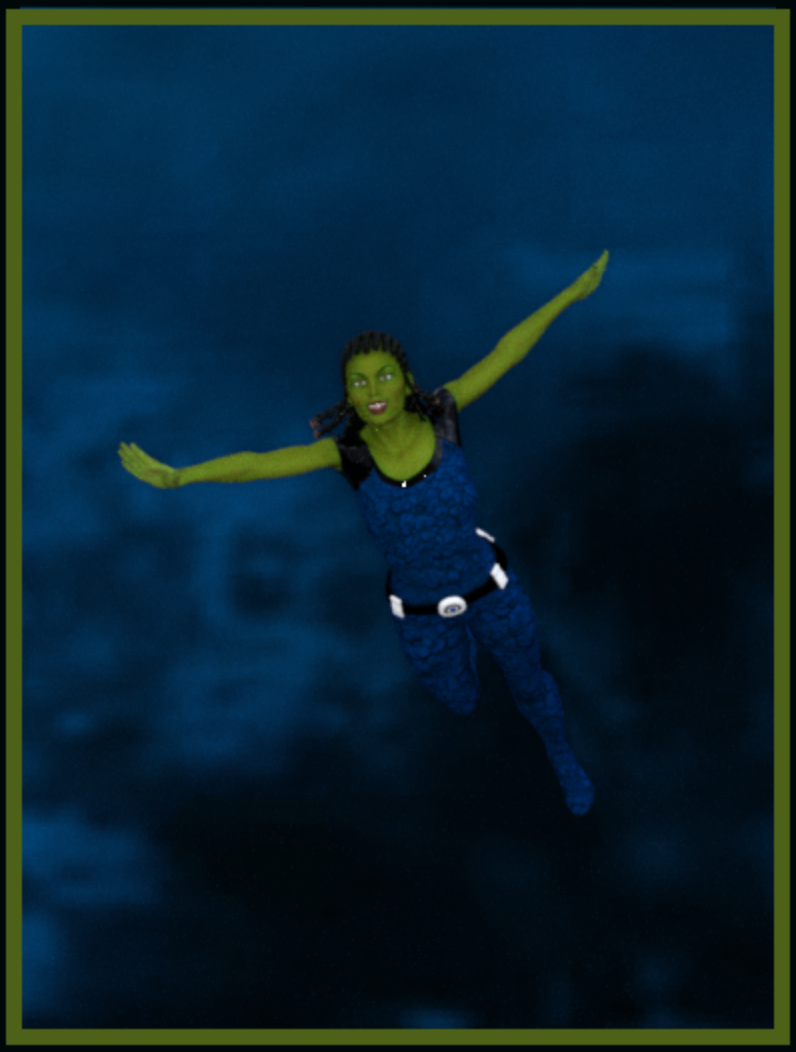
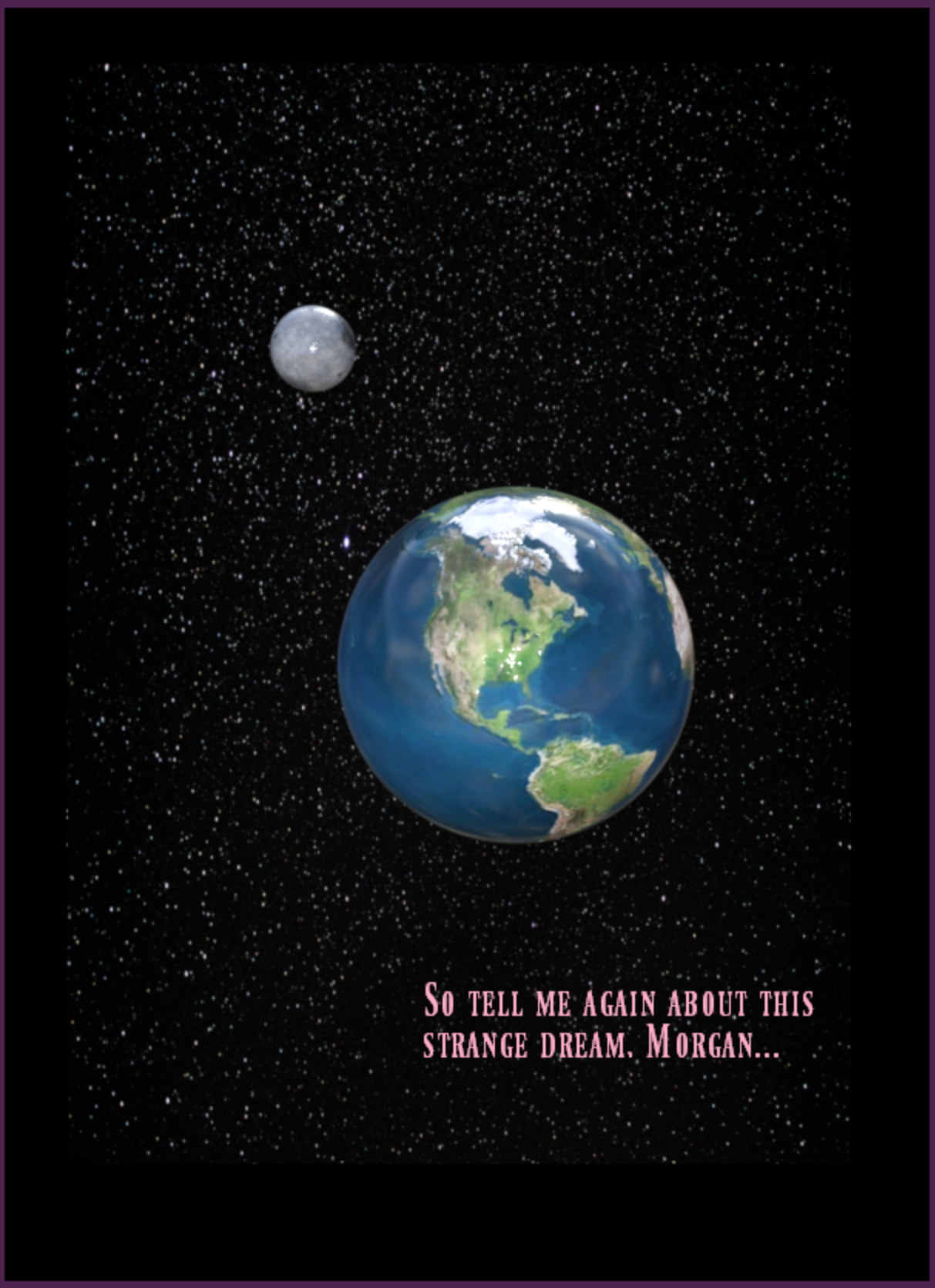
DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE



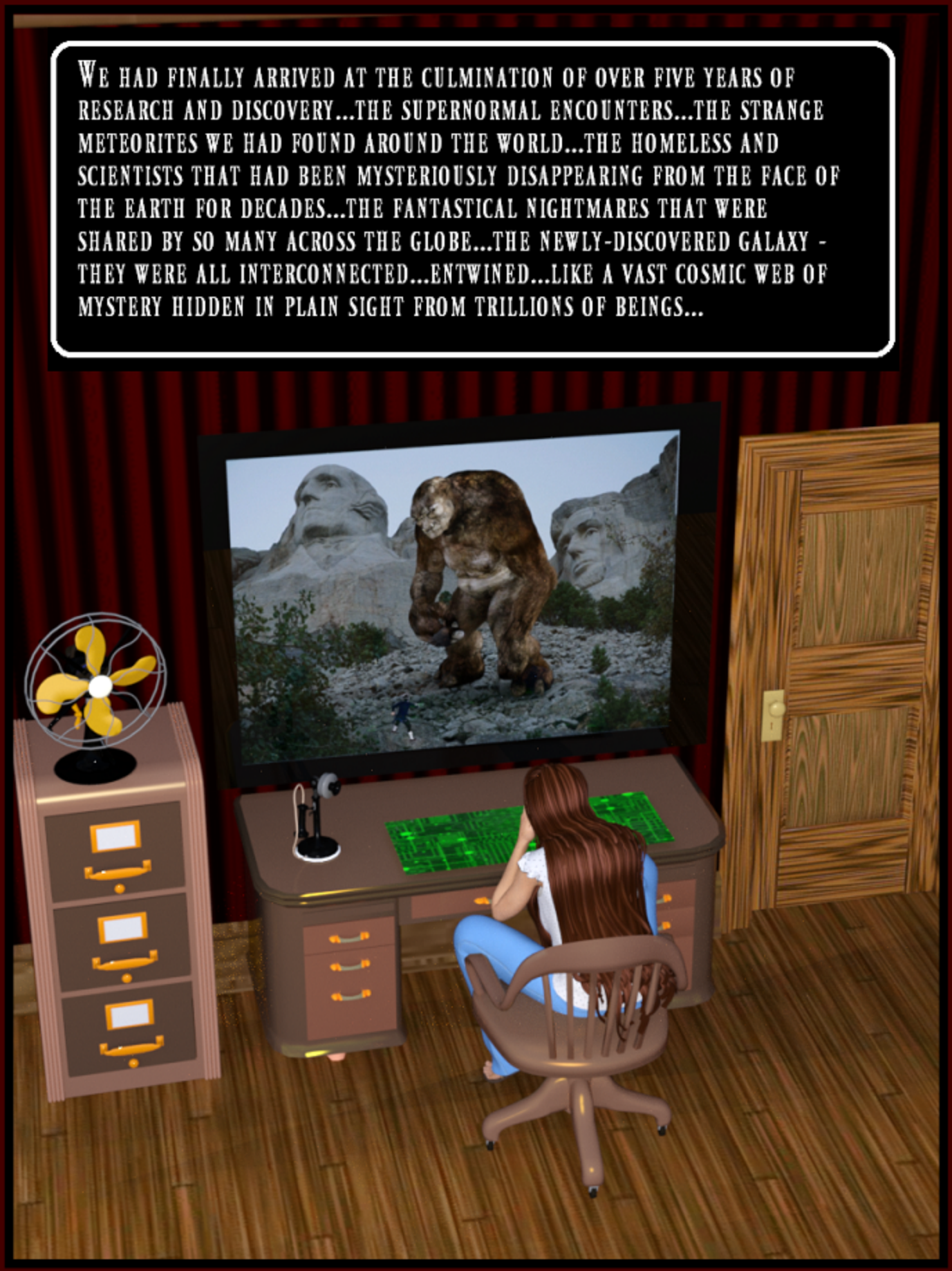

So tell me again about this
strange dream, Morgan...

It all seemed so real - so vivid. I was studying a collection of astonishing photos and films that a friend had sent me. It showed amazing super-normal events from all over the planet Earth that had taken place during the past century or so.

And then I got a call from my co-workers. Jim said we had all finally gotten critical coordinates and information back from an intergalactic probe we had sent out years ago.

It was time.

I wasn't sure if I wanted to shout for joy or go and hide in bed. This was going to be huge.


We had finally arrived at the culmination of over five years of research and discovery...the supernormal encounters...the strange meteorites we had found around the world...the homeless and scientists that had been mysteriously disappearing from the face of the earth for decades...the fantastical nightmares that were shared by so many across the globe...the newly-discovered galaxy - they were all interconnected...entwined...like a vast cosmic web of mystery hidden in plain sight from trillions of beings...

And some of the many gossamer strings were sabotaging our efforts to help people-

- thousands of hours of research had been deleted from our files - including schematics for super-nutritive serums that could cure almost any physical illness or injury - force fields that could stop nuclear and energy weapons - flying cars far more advanced than any Area 51 hovercraft - free energy devices - and so much more.

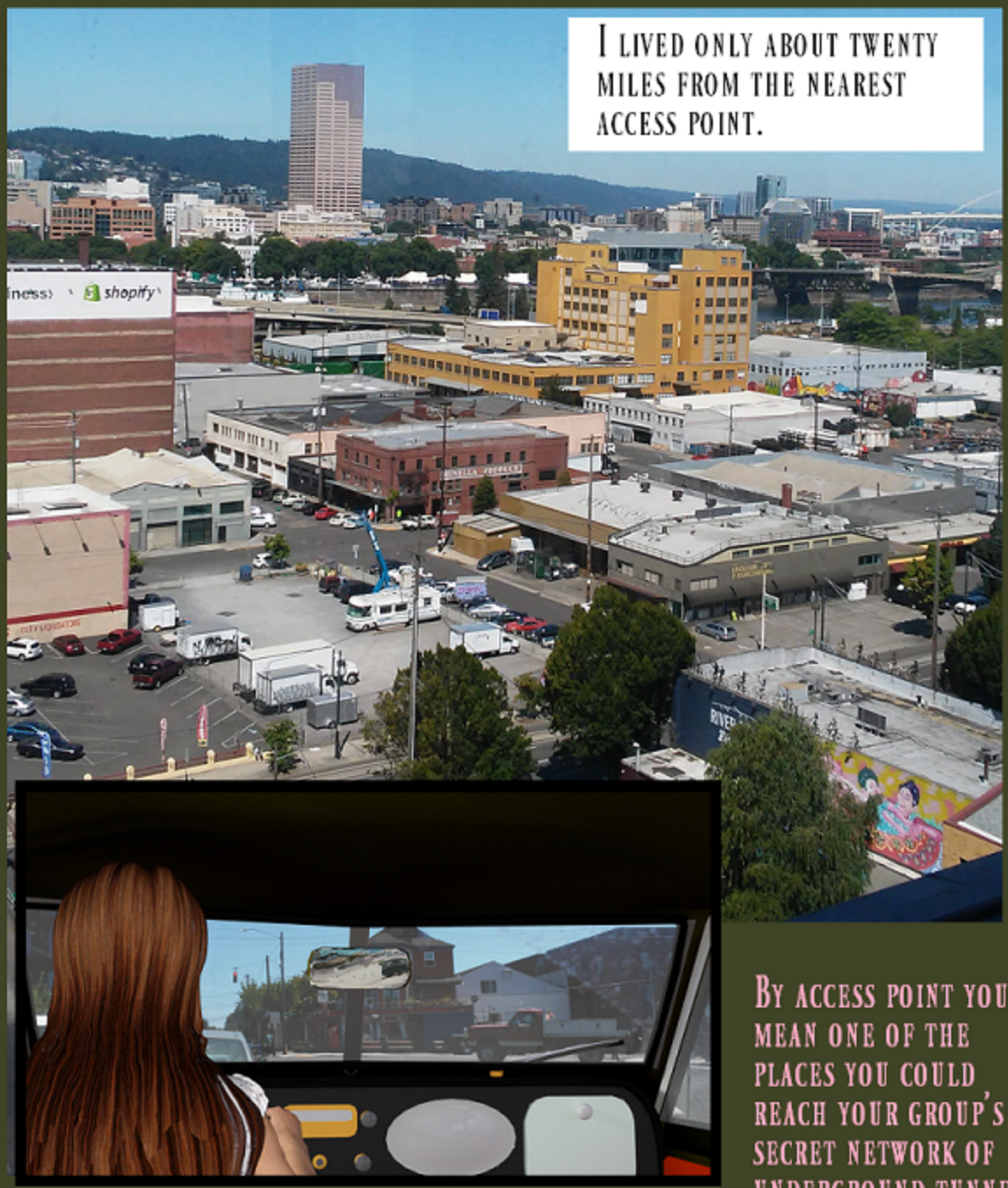
We tracked the sabotage back to the bizarre galaxy we found. Whoever was behind our many troubles - and those of many others - was operating from there.

We had to stop them.
I had to go with them.
I wanted to go.

But you were afraid.

Yes. I was terrified.

But I went. It was the right thing to do and I knew it.
Do you always do the right thing?
I always try.



BY ACCESS POINT YOU MEAN ONE OF THE PLACES YOU COULD REACH YOUR GROUP'S SECRET NETWORK OF UNDERGROUND TUNNELS?

YES.

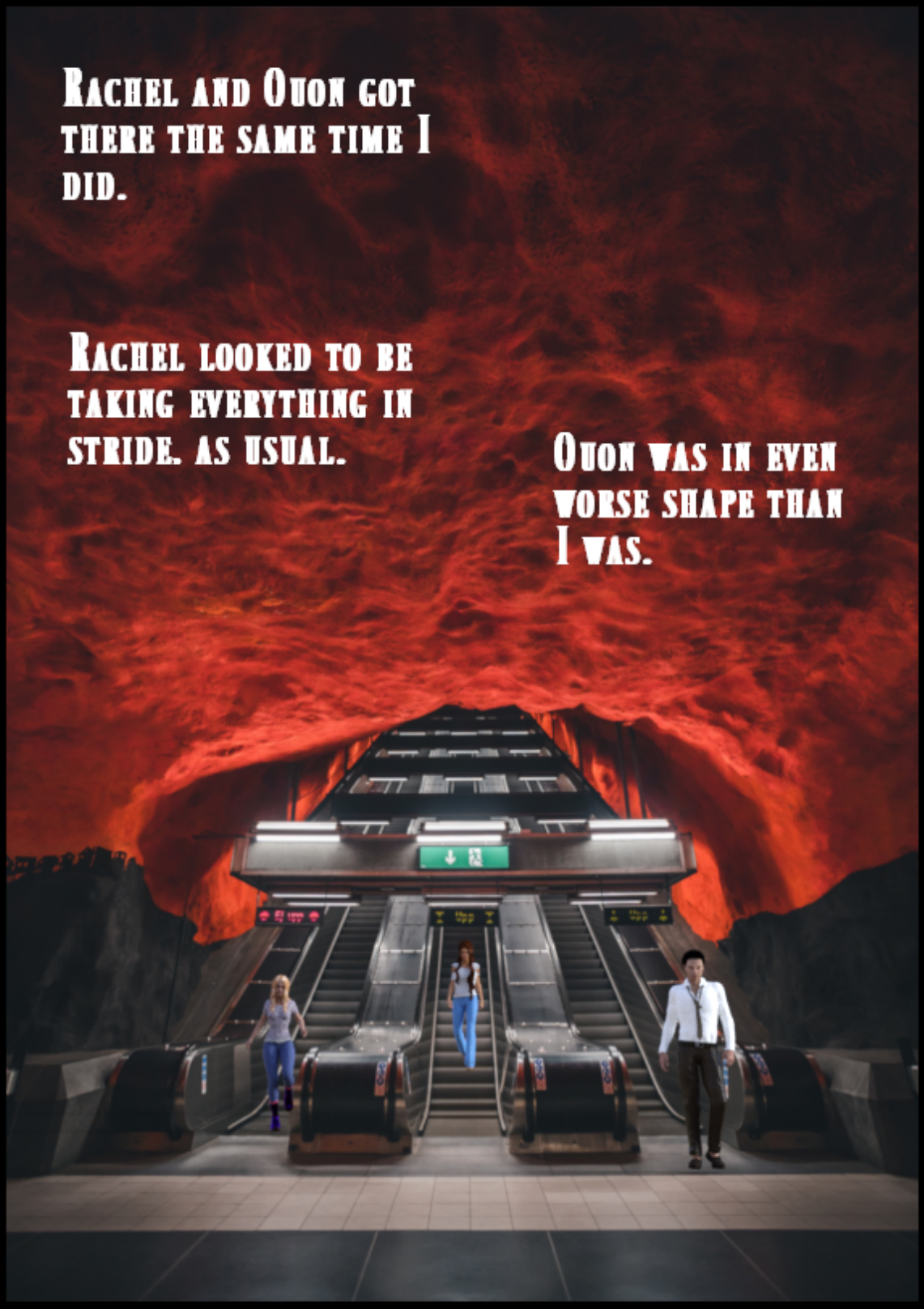
Railroad Ave
STOP
OREGON'S FIRST
MAIN STREET
DEPOT
BARBER
SHOP
WALK IN
TUES-FRI 9:00 TO 5:00
SATURDAY 8:30 TO 3:00
TRADITIONAL BARBER SERVICES
WITH A MODERN EDGE
The old elevator had been built to go up and down a hillside - but we had modified it four years earlier for our needs.

Slippery
When Wet

From Oregon City the journey to our base was well over 200 miles -

- but via our special rail system, it was a trip of less than 5 minutes -

Our secret central headquarters is the size of a large city -
It cost us millions of dollars. It would have cost trillions if we hadn't used our own free energy tech to build and power it - and if we hadn't mined and refined all of the materials ourselves with our own ultra-high-tech machines. Our facilities were built to easily withstand nuclear bombs and almost any level of earthquake.

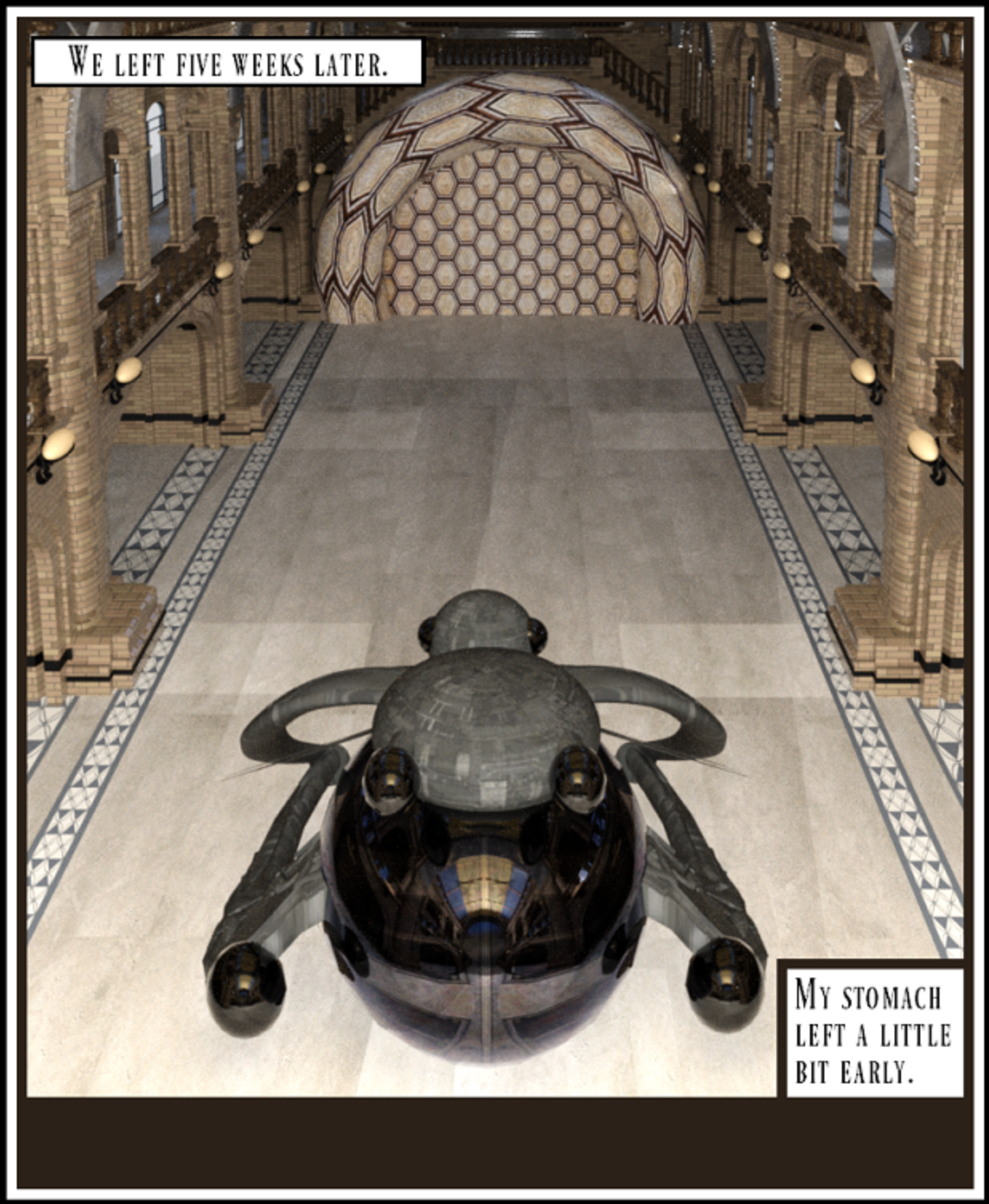

Rachel and Ouon got there the same time I did.
Rachel looked to be taking everything in stride. as usual.
Ouon was in even worse shape than I was.

The starship was really beautiful.

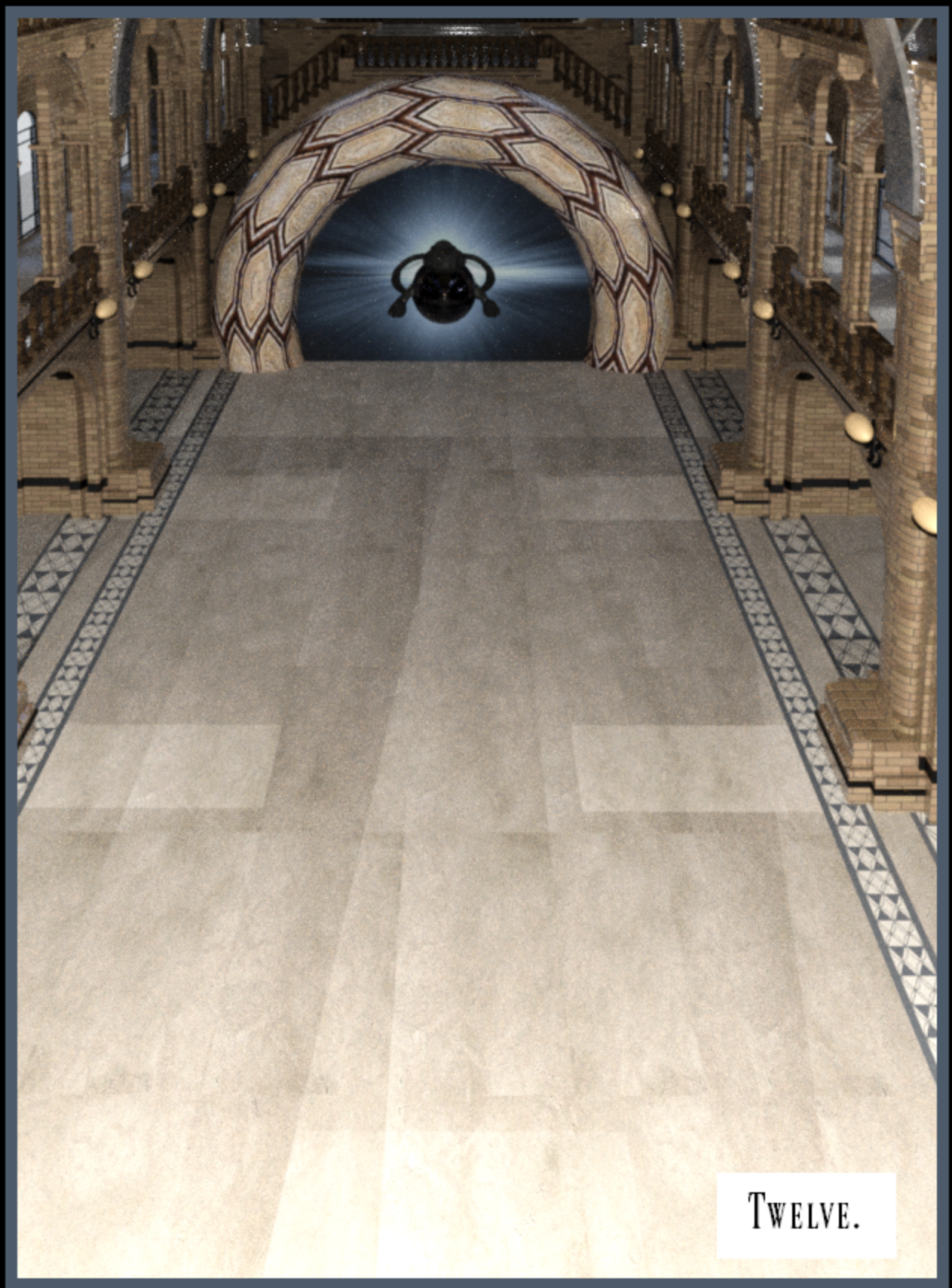
It was simple
yet elegant.

It was a work
of pure genius.

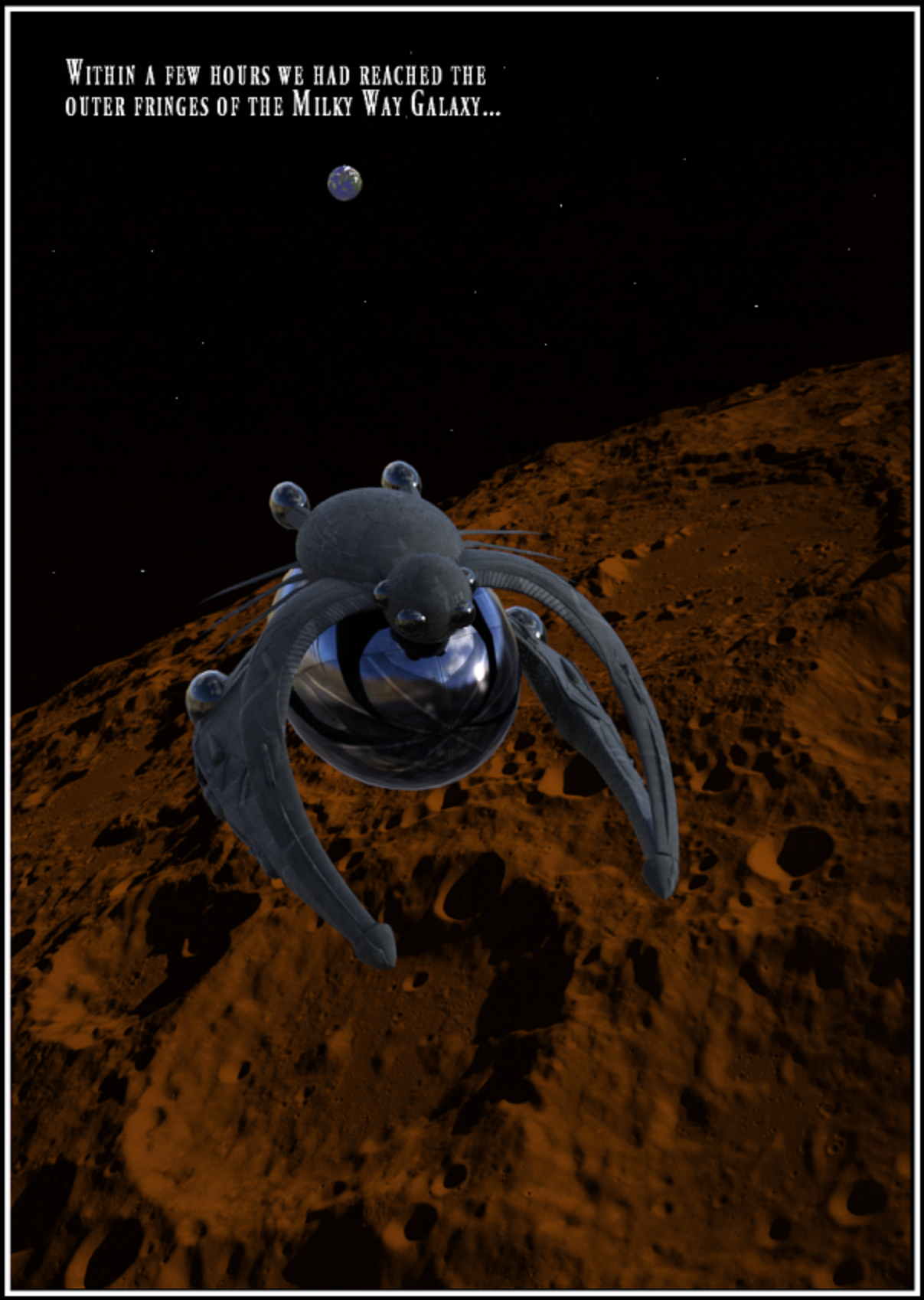
Enoch had created a masterpiece.

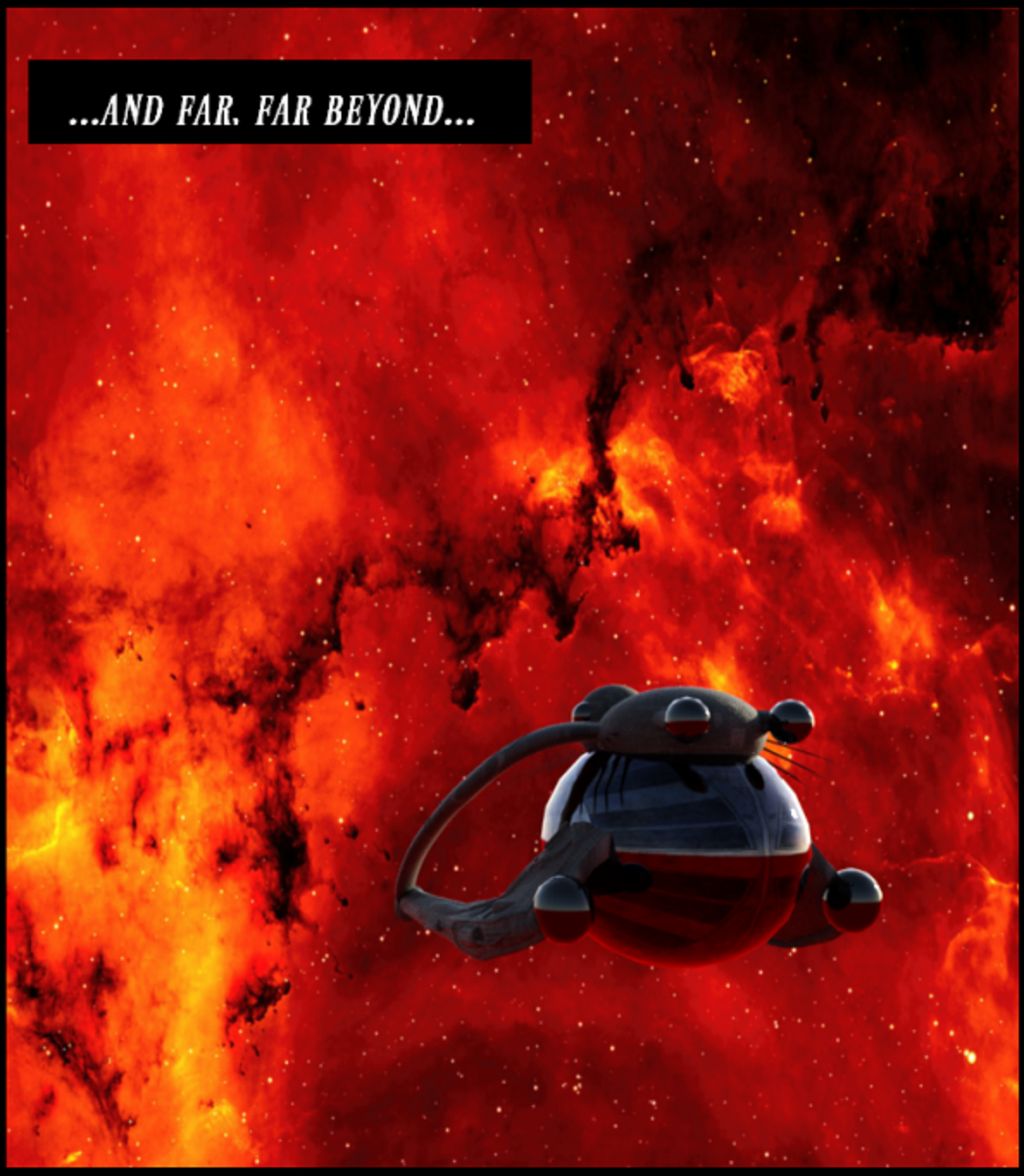

We left five weeks later.
My stomach left a little bit early.

How many of you were there?

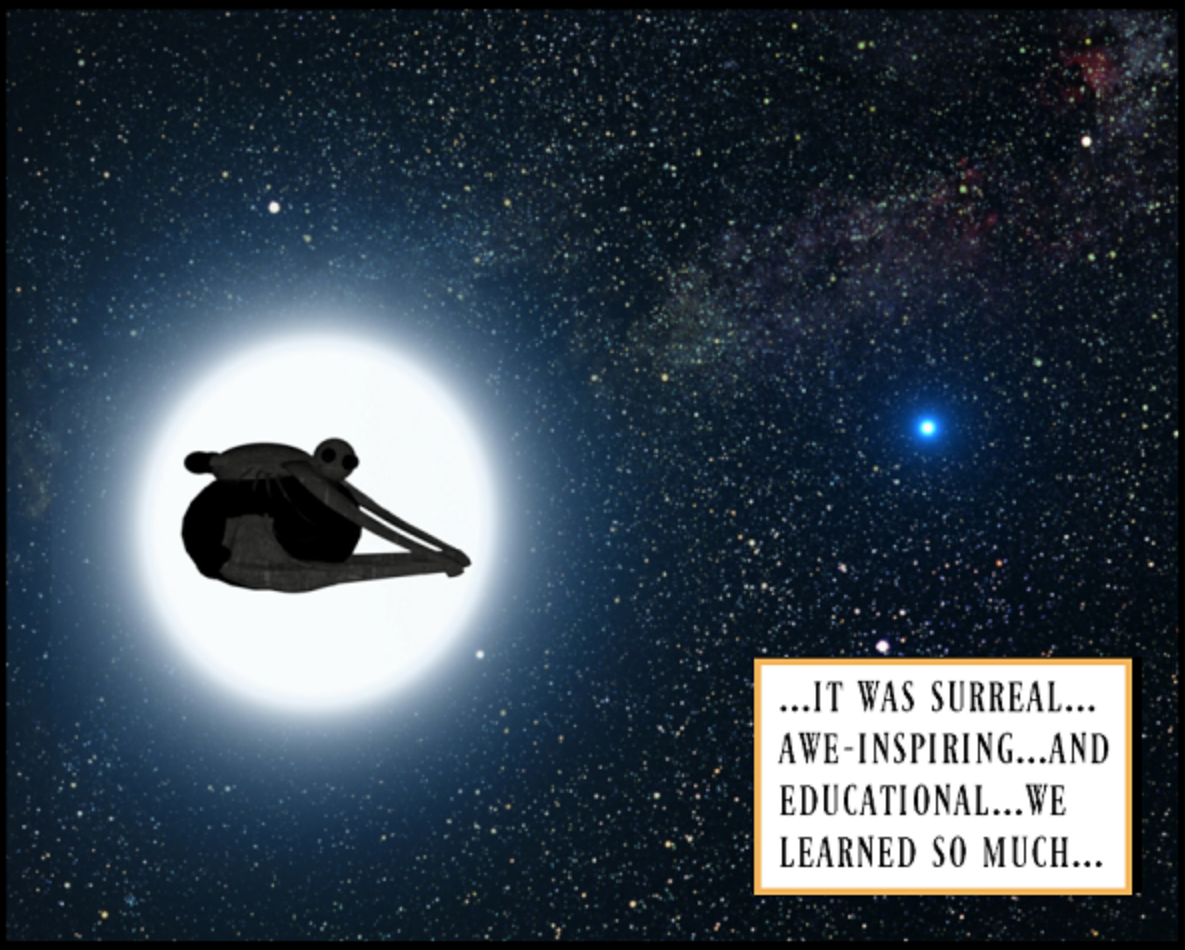

Twelve.

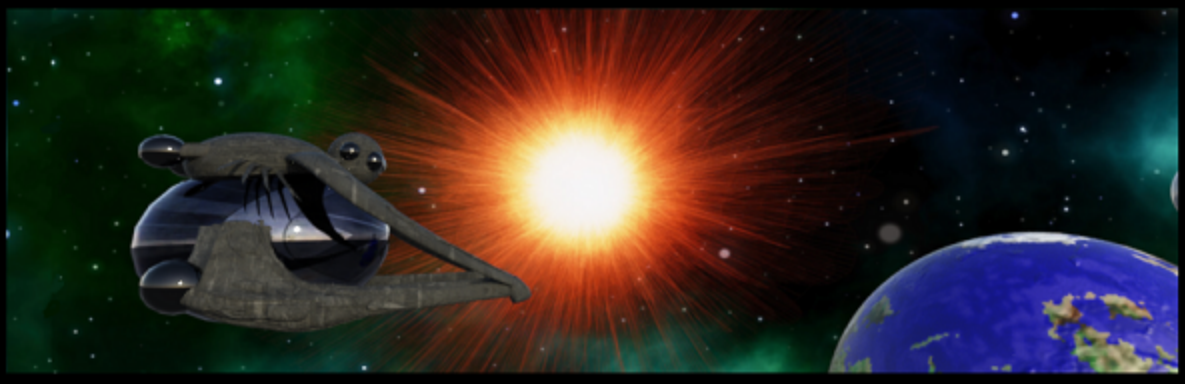
What was the name of your organization again?
DREAM MATRIX.
Ah. yes. How many of your members stayed behind?
Most of us. We have nearly a thousand members worldwide.
Hmm. very interesting. Please. continue.

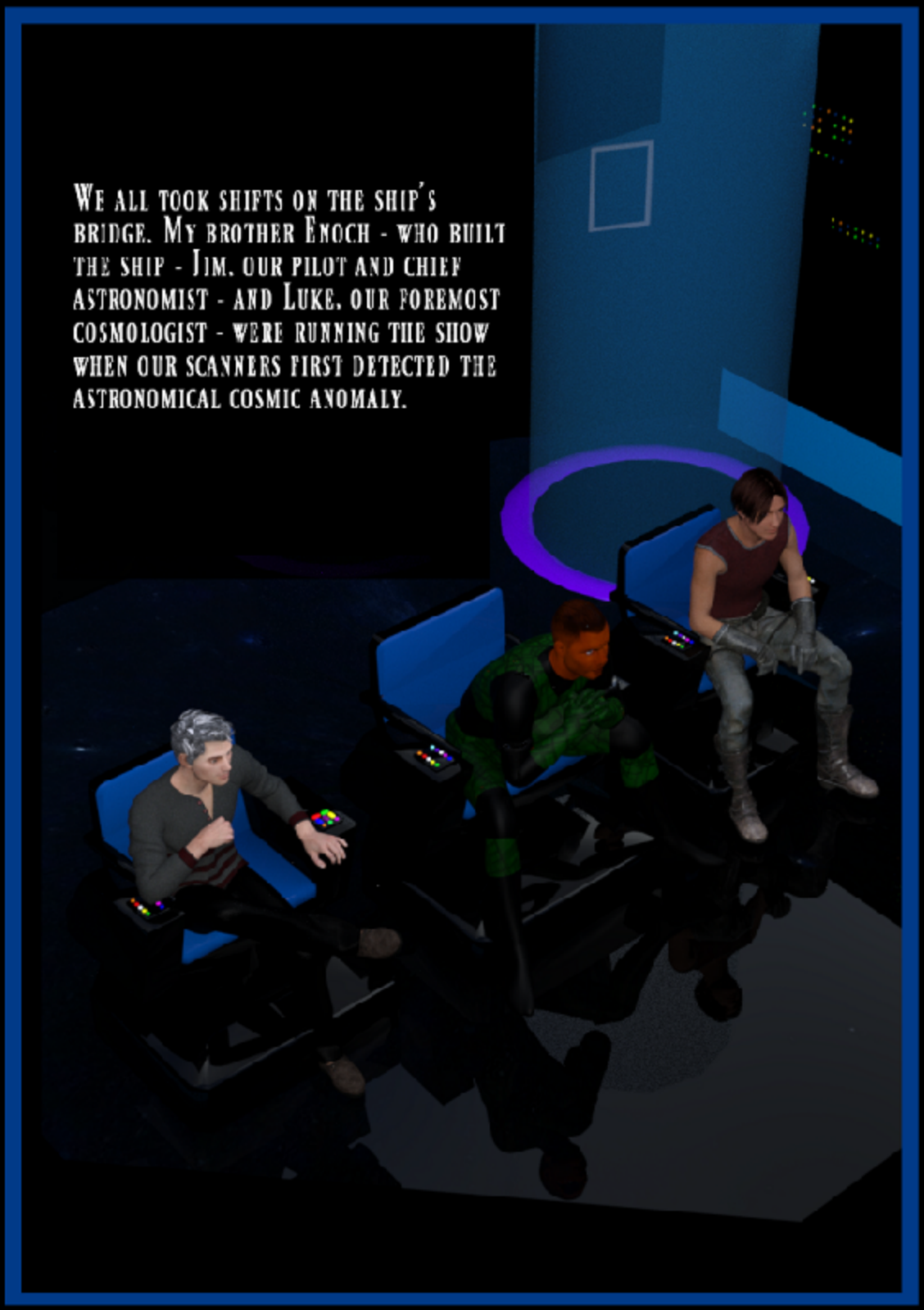

WITHIN A FEW HOURS WE HAD REACHED THE
OUTER FRINGES OF THE MILKY WAY GALAXY...



THE PERFORMANCE OF ENOCH'S *STARCRAWLER* SHIP WAS EXTRAORDINARY. AS WAS ITS PASSENGER COMFORT SPECS.


...IT WAS SURREAL... AWE-INSPIRING...AND EDUCATIONAL...WE LEARNED SO MUCH...



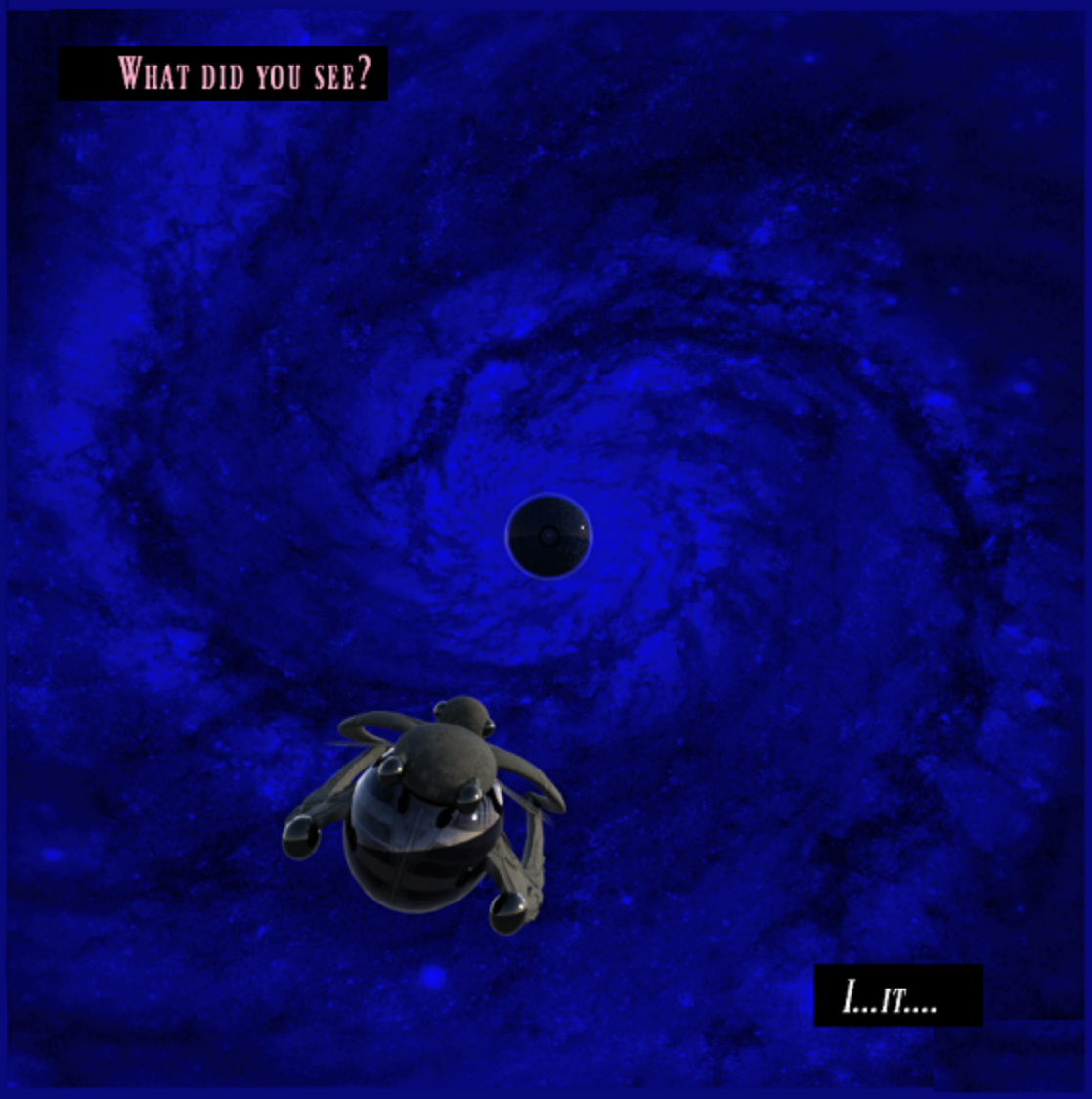

We all took shifts on the ship's bridge. My brother Enoch - who built the ship - Jim, our pilot and chief astronomist - and Luke, our foremost cosmologist - were running the show when our scanners first detected the astronomical cosmic anomaly.

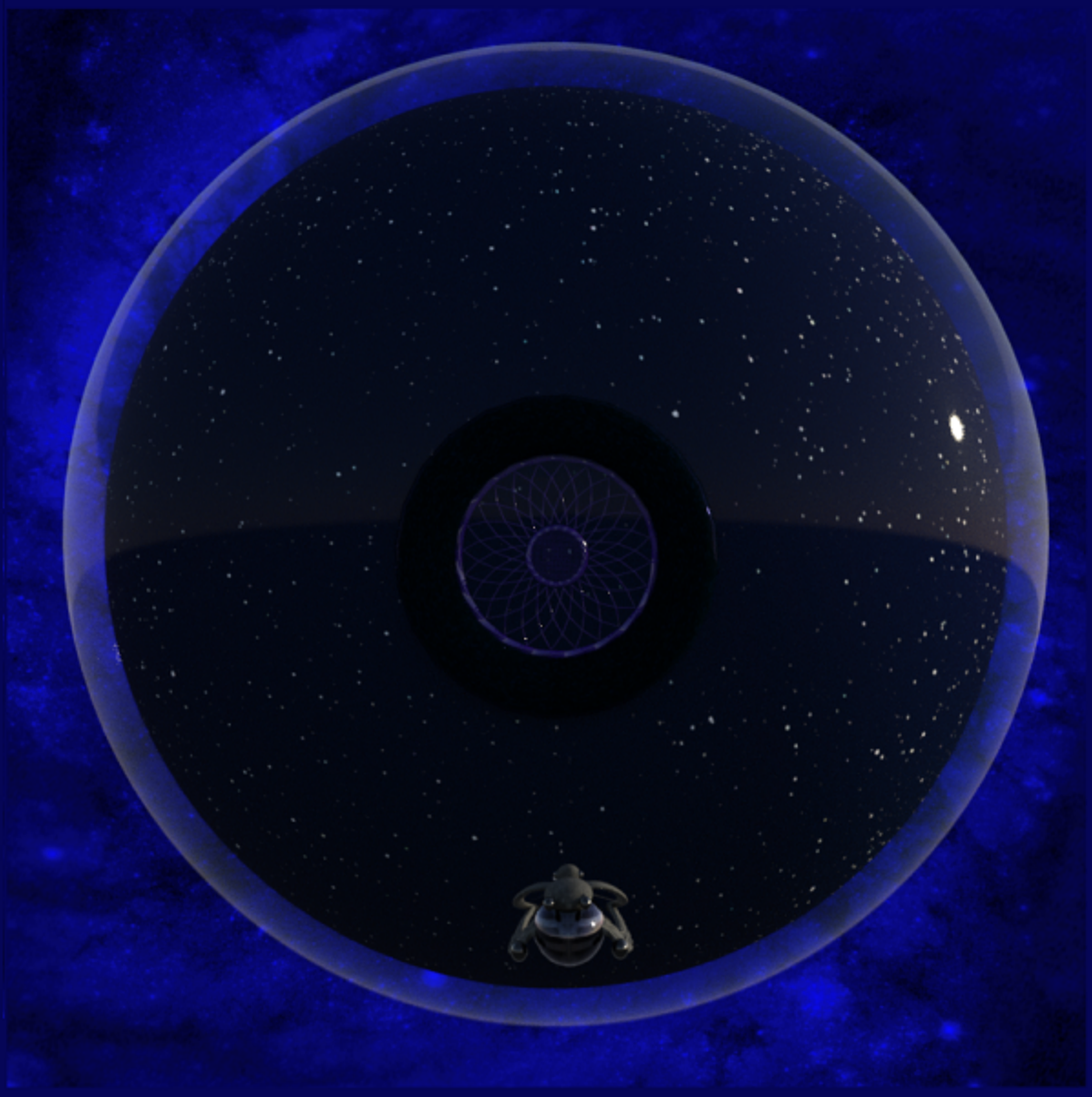
Enoch is the leader of DREAM MATRIX. He's also easily our most intelligent member.

Enoch and I both had very hard childhoods. But he's one of the most optimistic and positive people I know. He's come to look at hardships as a chance to improve himself and help others. I've always looked up to him. I don't know where he is. But I hope he knows how much I love and miss him.

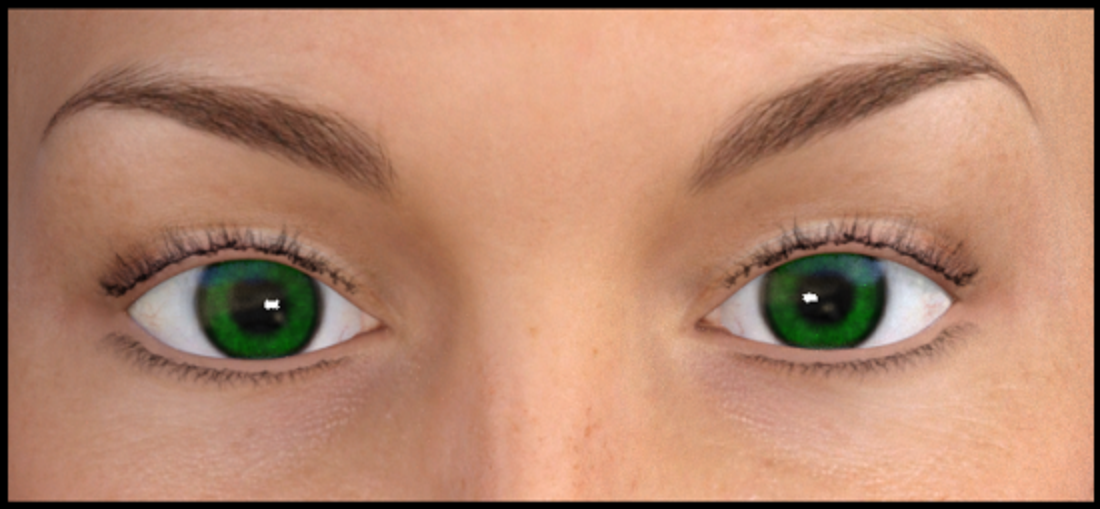
Jim is fearless and curious. He's an explorer and adventurer by heart. He's a really great man. And he's the best pilot in our group.

A lot of people have mistaken Luke's lack of social skills or interaction for lack of compassion or arrogance. But nothing could be farther from the truth. Luke simply can't stop pondering deep questions. His brilliant mind never takes a break.


What did you see?
I...it....



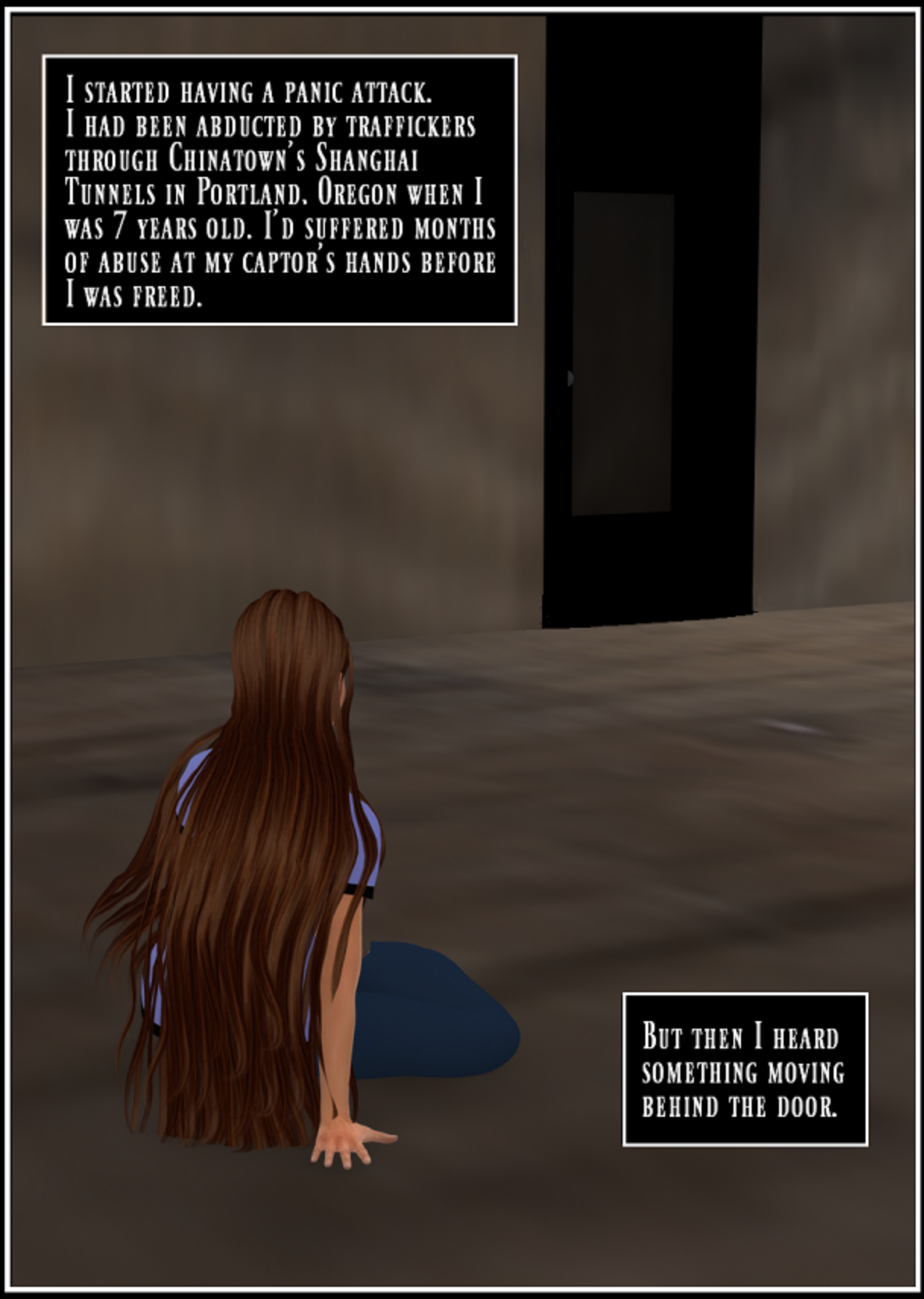
I blacked out...I don't know for how long...



I awoke inside of some kind of cargo ship hold. There was a very small amount of sunlight coming in through a small window hole in the upper part of the outer wall. It was terrifying to say the least.

There was a tall ladder leading to a closed trapdoor above me...

...and a door on the far wall that was locked.


I started having a panic attack. I had been abducted by traffickers through Chinatown's Shanghai Tunnels in Portland, Oregon when I was 7 years old. I'd suffered months of abuse at my captor's hands before I was freed.
But then I heard something moving behind the door.

Someone opened the door...

At first I thought the person coming through the door was a lunatic in an outlandish costume...

...AND THEN I THOUGHT I'D LOST MY MIND.

The being talked to me in fluent English. He said he was not an actual duck, but was a detective active in the 1920s from Anaheim named Sam Mandrake...and that he had been investigating a rash of kidnappings when a gang of space pirates had grabbed him and took him through a portal to another realm.

He said that they sold him to a powerful sorceror king who looked like a giant rat...and that the ratman mutated his body into its current bizarre form.

He claimed that he eventually escaped from captivity and had joined a peaceful underground railroad that sought to free people like himself from the rat-king's evil clutches...

...AND THAT HE AND A FEW OF HIS NEW FRIENDS HAD COME TO FREE ME AND SEVERAL OTHERS FROM OUR CAPTIVITY...

...UTILIZING TELEPORTATION DEVICES EMBEDDED WITHIN THEIR ARTICLES OF CLOTHING...IN HIS CASE, HIS HAT...

Detective Mandrake held out his hand. After several long moments I finally took it, my stomach knotting up as I did so...

SOMETHING HAD GONE TERRIBLY WRONG. HOWEVER...

...AND WE'D BOTH SOMEHOW GONE FROM THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE...

Our captors included DEMERGO, a criminal scientist and member of the sub-oceanic PALLASITE race...

...the super-scientist and conqueror known as CAPTAIN NEMO, great-grandson of the original CAPTAIN NEMO, PRINCE DAKKAR...

...THE SHE-MAGE ASTERIA. WHO RULES A SMALL CONTINENT OF THE SAME NAME...

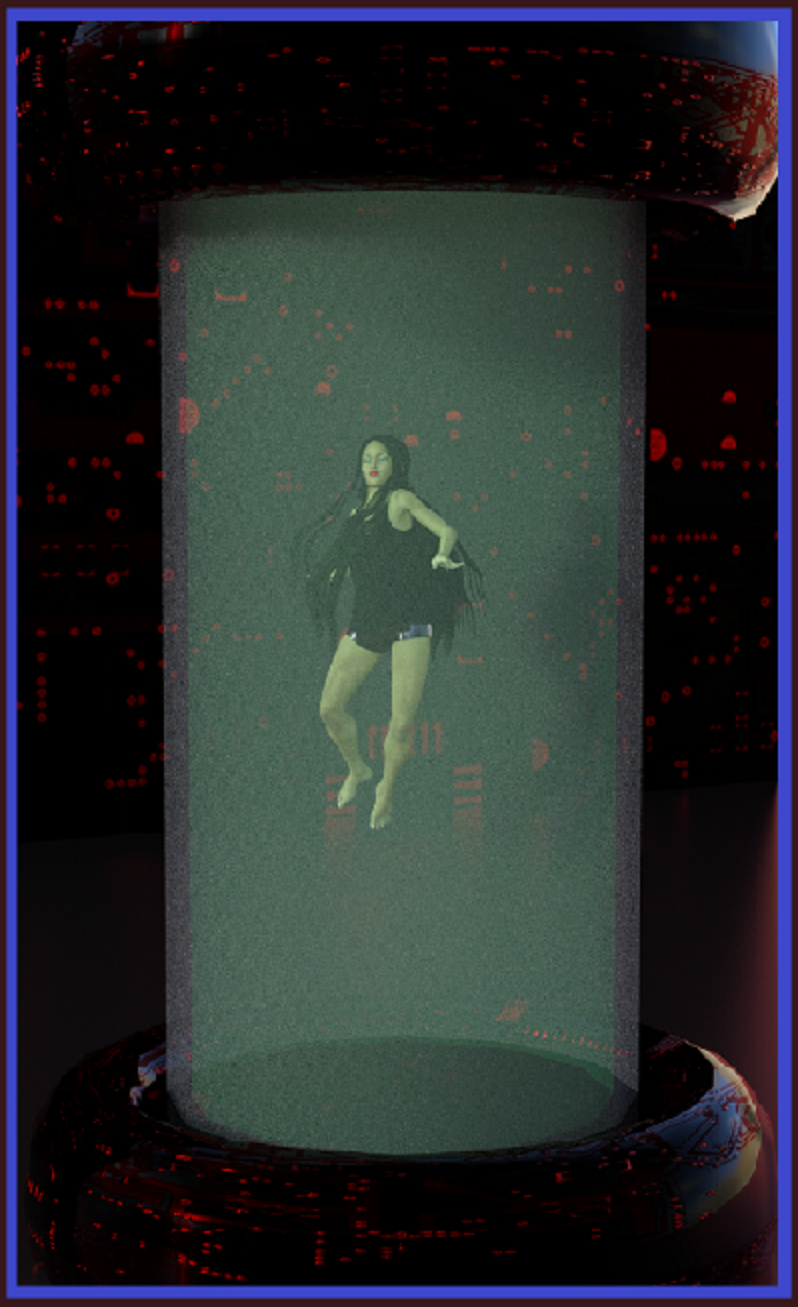
...AND THE WICKED PRINCE ZELOS OF AREGEUS. ONE OF SEVERAL PRINCES OF A VAST UNDERSEA KINGDOM THAT WAS WARRING AGAINST ITSELF. HE FOUGHT AGAINST A FEW OF HIS BROTHERS FOR CONTROL OF THE THRONE.

It turned out that one of Mandrake's allies had sold him out. He'd given our new captors all the data they'd needed to hack into Detective Mandrake's teleportation hat...and divert our travel path to Aegeus.

Demergo and Nemo killed poor Sam, experimented on his corpse and sold his organs to the ratman king.

As for me, they forced me into a radical cellular mutation cocoon that Demergo had built. They said people from the so-called Outer Worlds like myself had vast untapped genetic potential, including a much higher fertility rate.

They were planning on turning me into a mind-controlled MK Ultra pawn for their political schemes.



The chemicals they had suspended me in contained plenty of oxygen. But there was no way out of the tube. And every minute I could feel my awareness and sense of self slipping further away from me.

After an hour or so I blacked out.

I slept for a long time. I don't know exactly how long. But the mutation process probably took at least a couple of weeks.

Just the thought of those psychopaths staring at me while I slept for weeks on end in that transparent prison makes me sick.

And then I think of what they did to the brave Sam Mandrake and I stop feeling sorry for myself.

Aquatic respiration.

Electrophoric electrical charge.

Cephalopodic suction grip.

Hydropulse jet blasts.

Inkstream creation.

Paralysis stingers.

Photic hypnotism.

Photosynthesis.

Shape, size and color alteration.

Sonic wave generation.

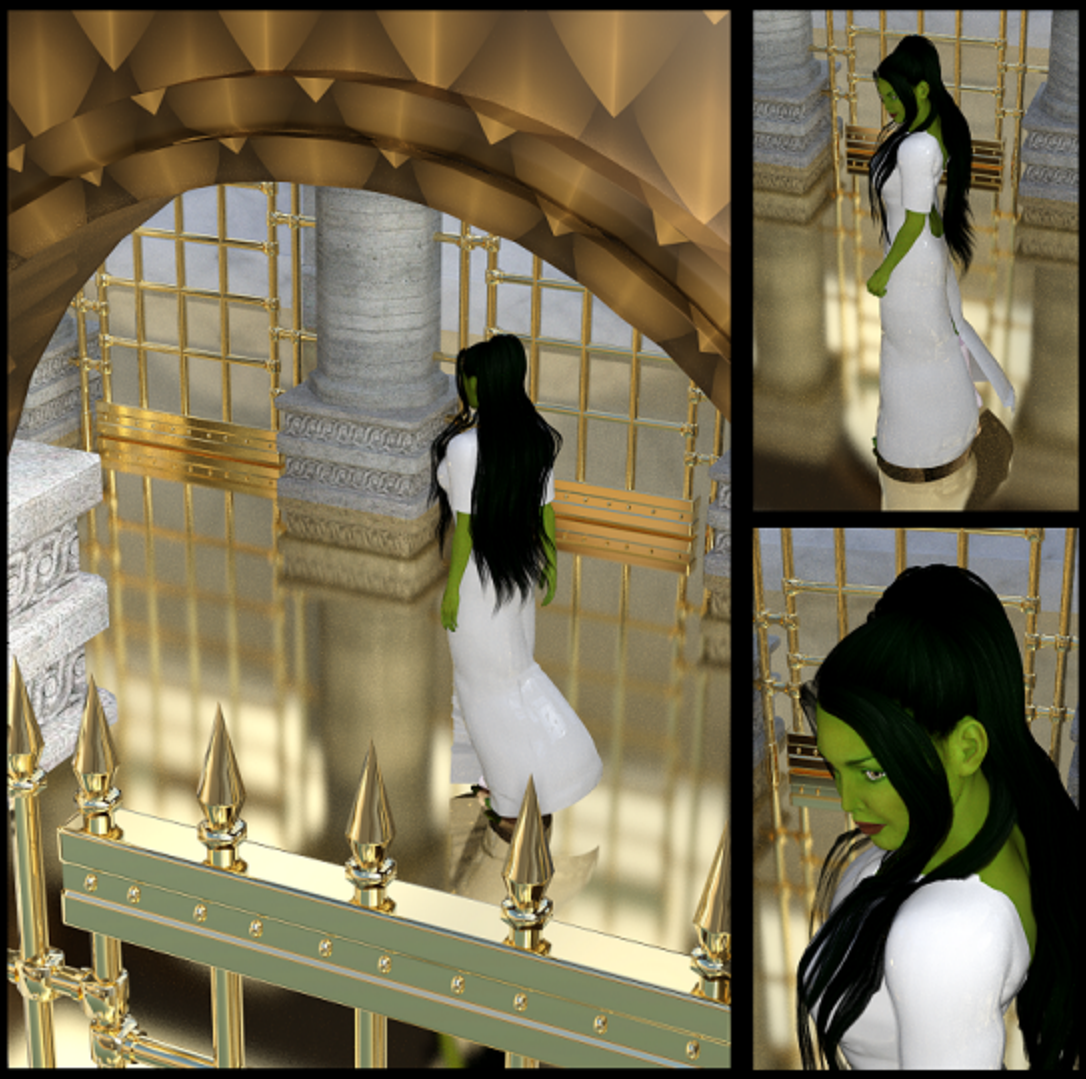
Super-strength, speed, reflexes, agility, senses, healing and cell regeneration.

And more.

By the time the metamorphosis had run its course I had gained fantastical abilities from dozens of aquatic life forms.

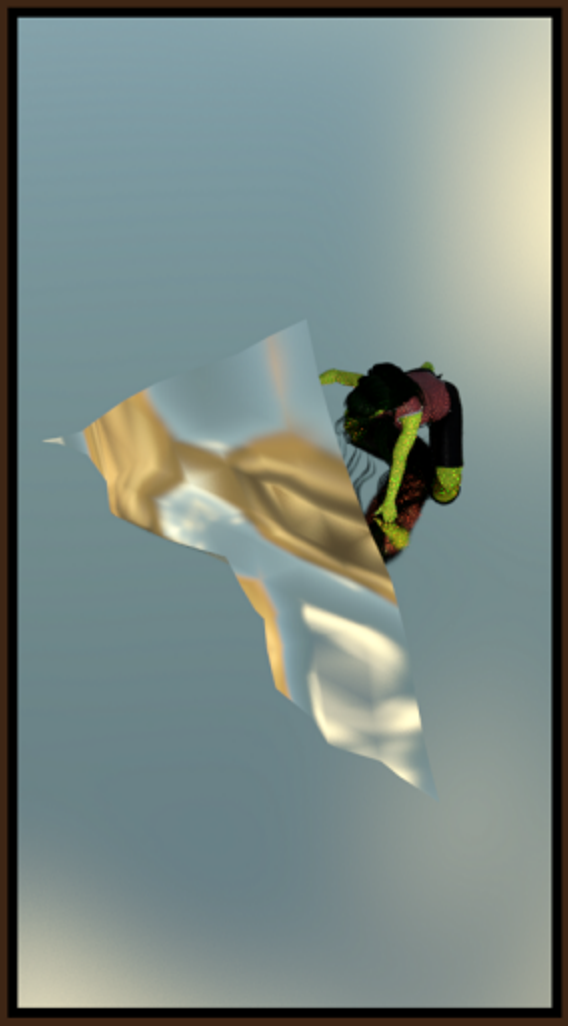
My consciousness, however, had been buried completely.

For the next several weeks I was locked in my gilded cage - unaware of what was truly happening - excited to be added to Prince Zelos' collection of super-powered puppet wives -



- until I suddenly wasn't. When I heard them coming for me right before the ceremony, my mind started to clear -

...AND I SUDDENLY SAW MYSELF AS
A HOLLOW REFLECTION OF MY TRUE
SELF.



Feeling water flowing beneath the floor. I tore out a floor panel with my newfound strength. As I thought, it led directly into the complex's extensive sewer system. I hoped it led all the way to the sea.

ONCE I MADE IT TO THE OUTSIDE OCEANS, I SWAM FOR OVER A DAY WITHOUT REST-ING MORE THAN TWO OR THREE TIMES.

I WAS TERRIFIED AND VERY OVER-WHELMED BY ALL THAT HAD GONE ON FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS. BUT IT WAS ALSO A WONDERFUL, EXHILARATING FEELING TO BE FREE AND TO BE ABLE TO SWIM THROUGH THE OCEAN CANYONS WITH NO SENSE OF FATIGUE.

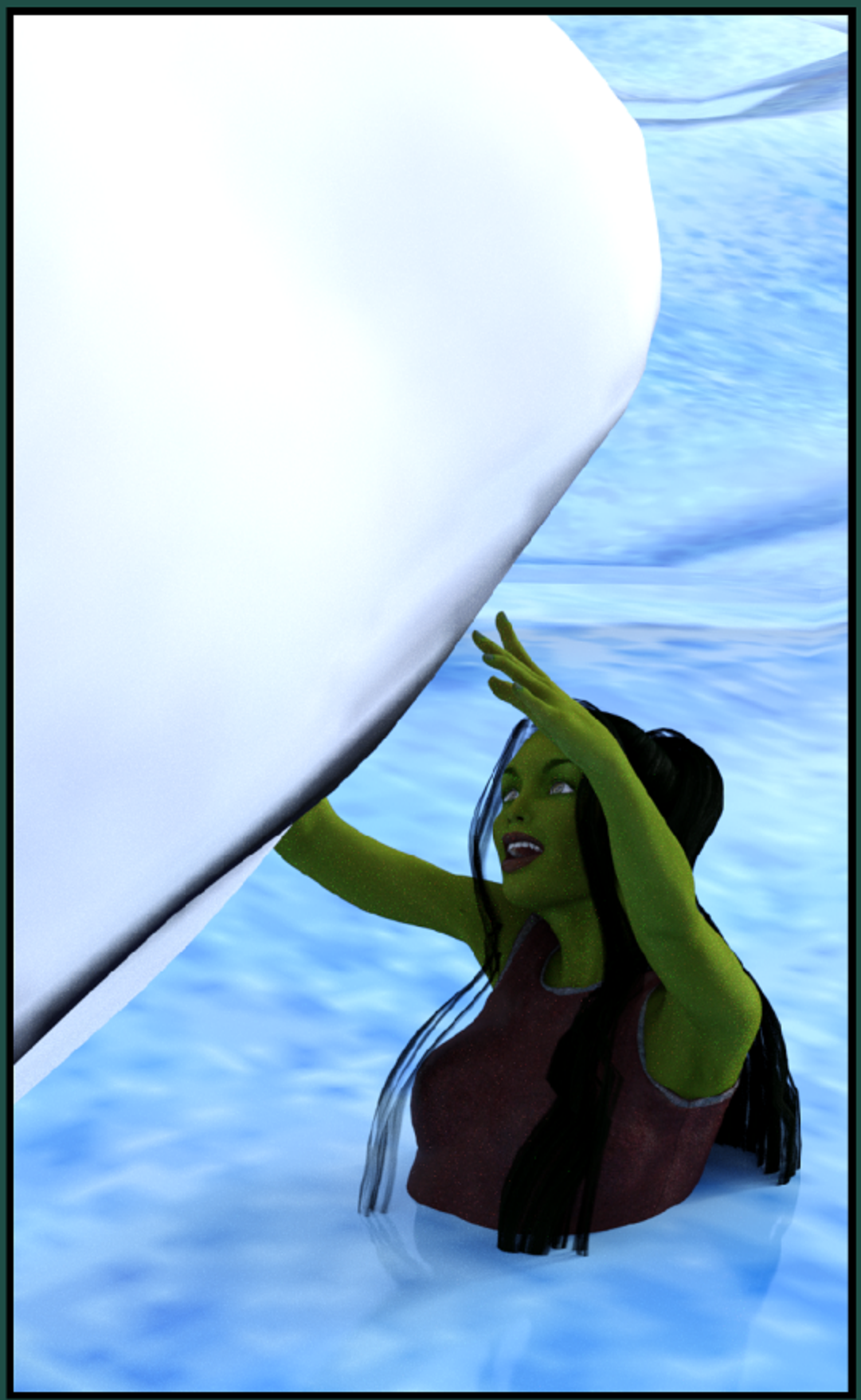
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A VERY LONG TIME, I DID NOT FEEL LIKE A HELPLESS VICTIM. I ALSO FOUND THE SEA FOOD TO BE QUITE DELICIOUS AND, OF COURSE, VERY PLENTIFUL. MY ONLY IMMEDIATE CONCERN WAS FINDING A FRESH SET OF CLOTHES. ON THAT FRONT I WAS UN-SUCCESSFUL.

I explored the oceans for weeks. My genetically enhanced body seemed virtually tireless.

There was plenty of fresh sea vegetation and fish to eat. And of course water was in no short supply! It was wonderful.

I had always loved scuba diving back on Earth...and as a leading oceanologist, the learning opportunities were absolutely priceless.

Over time I began to able to summon various forms of sea life simply by concentrating. Most of them also obeyed my mental commands.



Of course. The endless alien seas held plenty of dangers. Too...including several radiation-powered sea monsters from other worlds.

The first mermaid I met during my sojourn was a kind lady named Galene. Her race were metamorphs who could breathe in water or on land. so she was accustomed to spending time in both worlds.

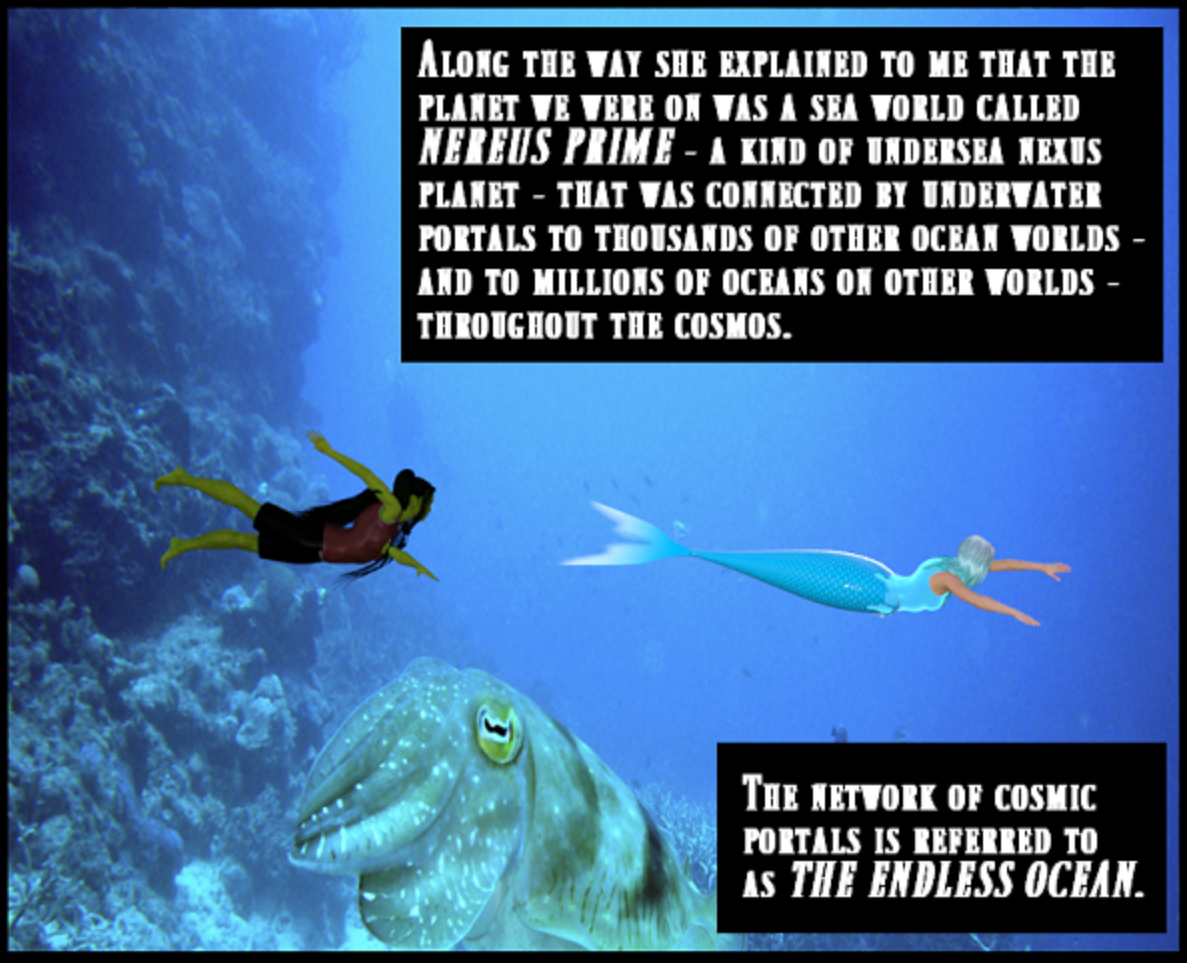
She told me that her people lived in a beauteous underwater city called Octopolis. It was about 180 nautical miles away.

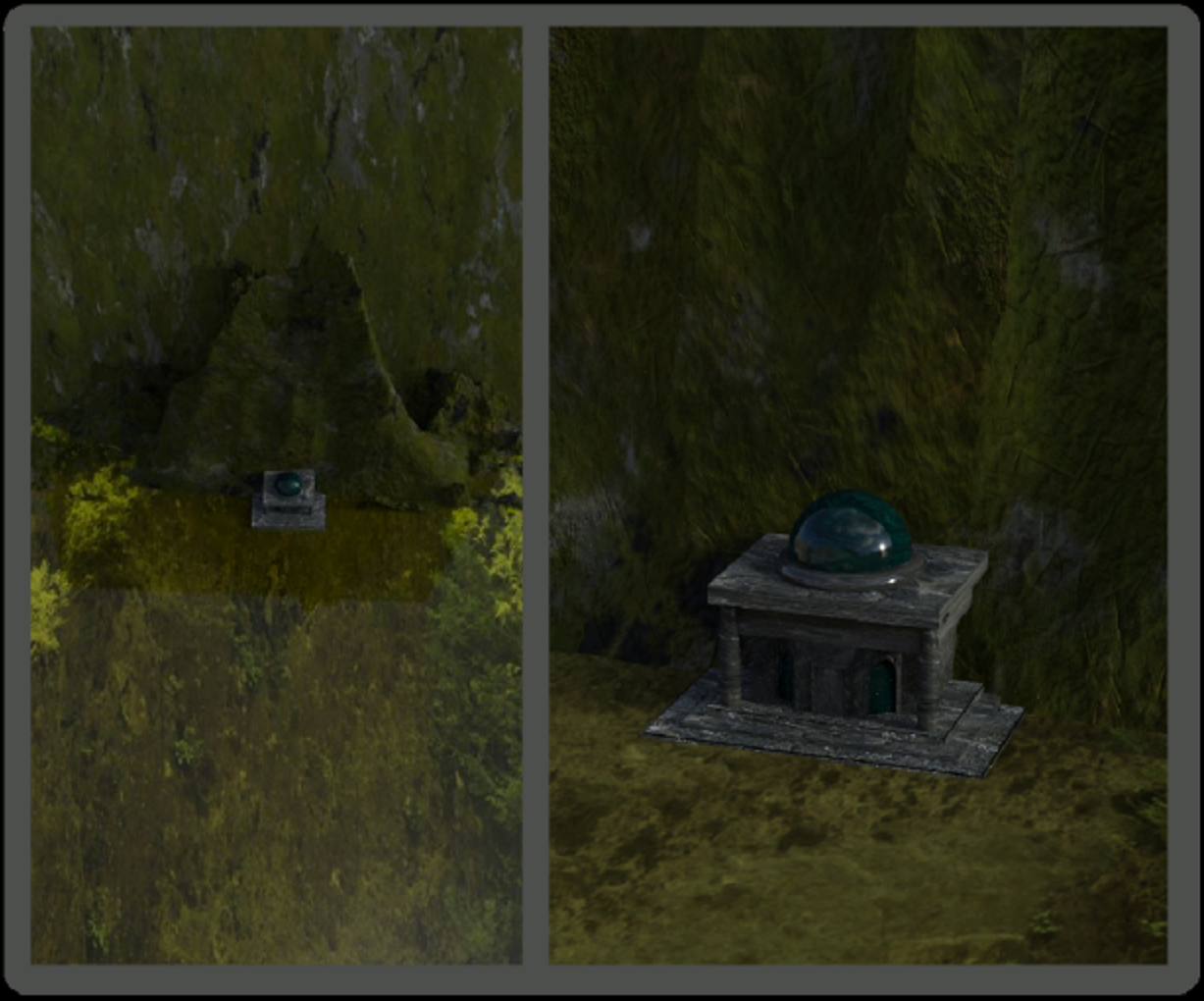
She invited me to visit. I gratefully accepted.

We travelled at a leisurely pace. So the trip took almost 10 hours.

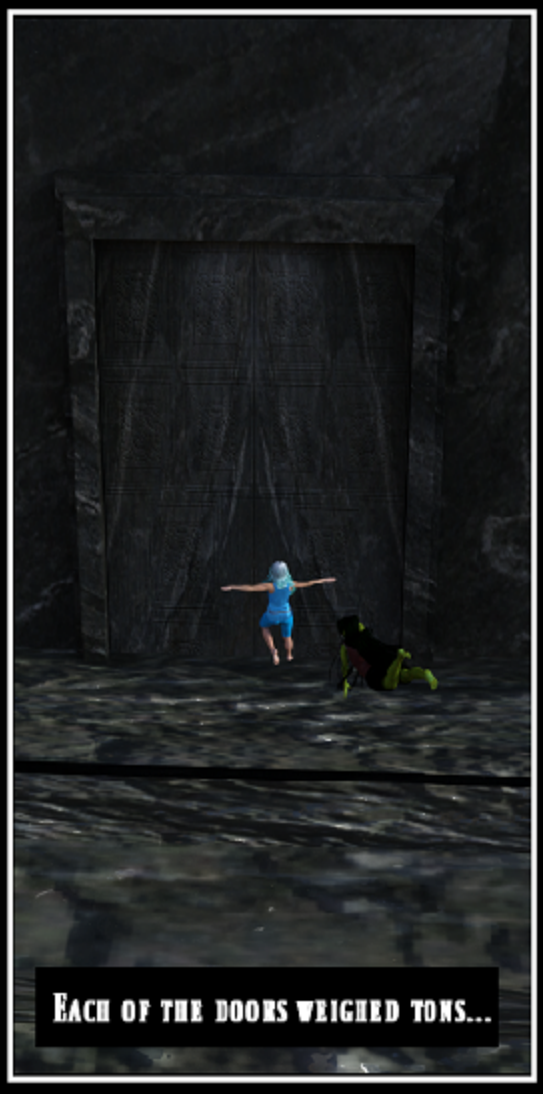
We found that we had a lot in common in many respects.

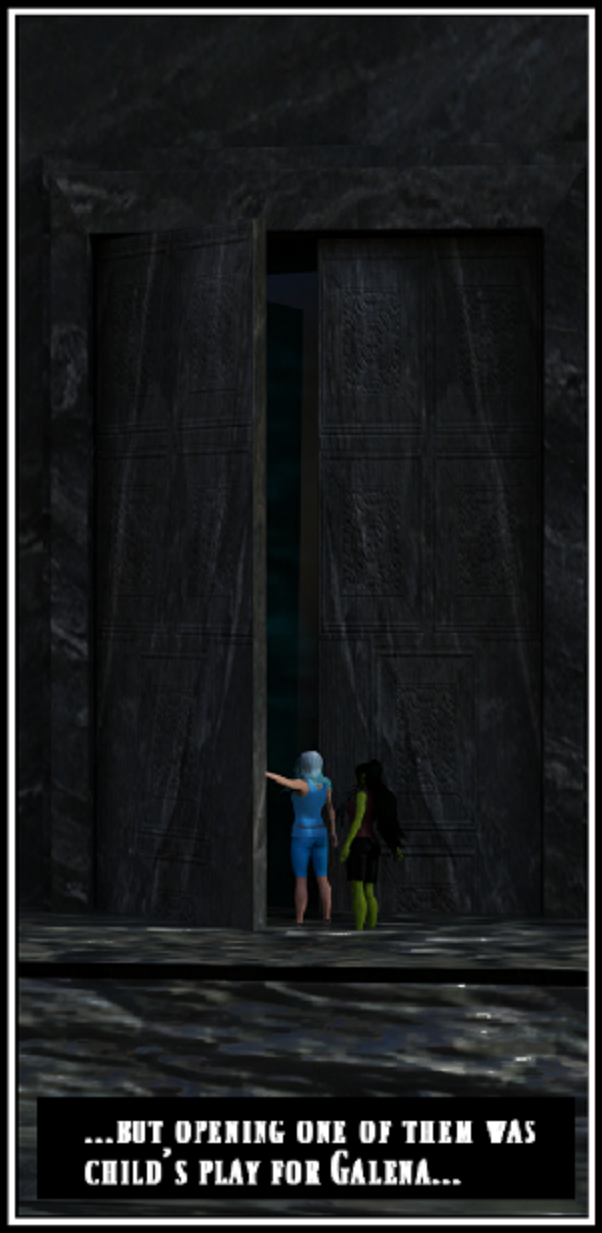
Although when I told her I had 2 brothers and a sister. She laughed and said she had over 200 brothers and sisters!

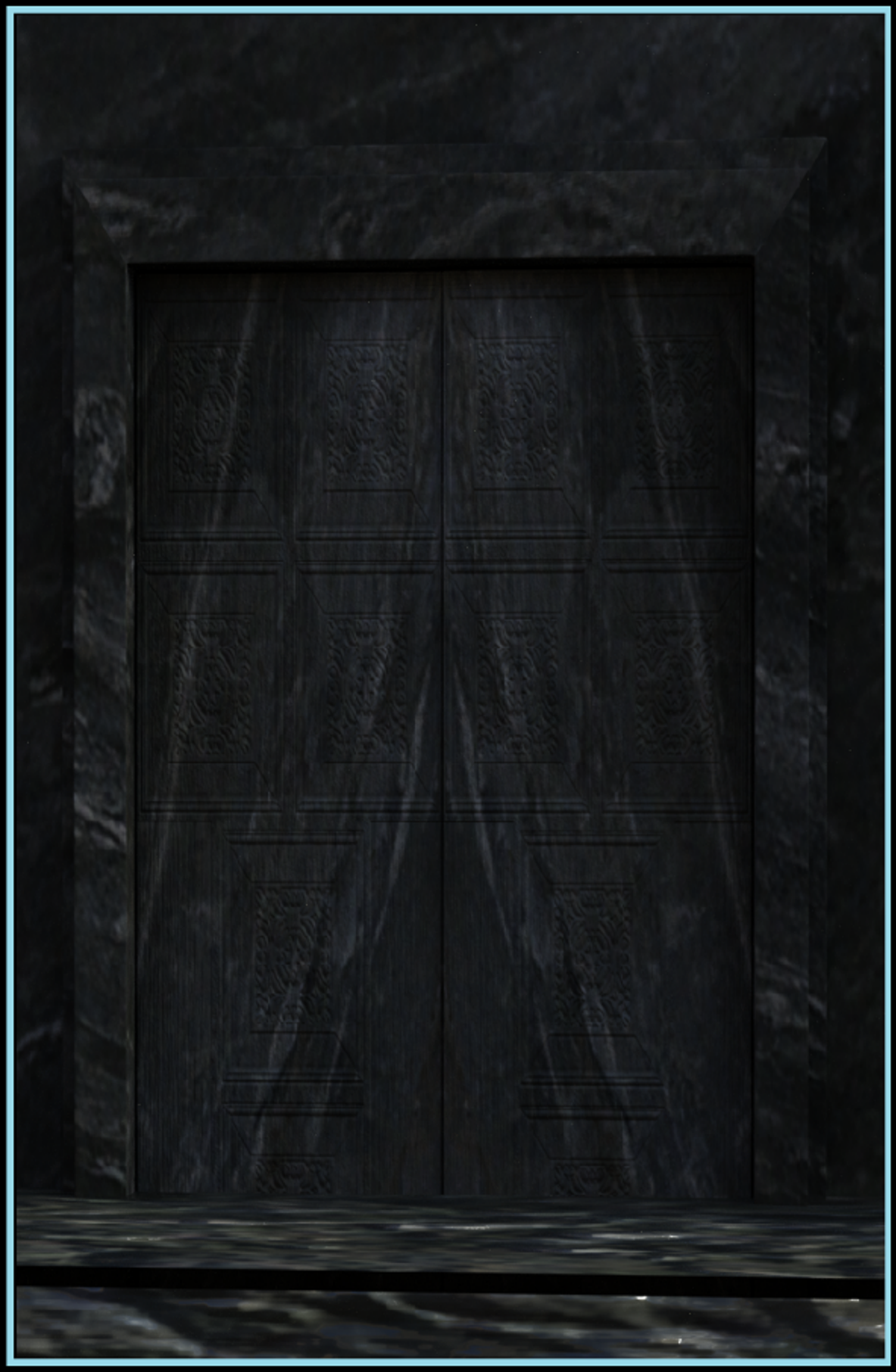

Along the way she explained to me that the planet we were on was a sea world called *Nereus Prime* - a kind of undersea nexus planet - that was connected by underwater portals to thousands of other ocean worlds - and to millions of oceans on other worlds - throughout the cosmos.
The network of cosmic portals is referred to as *The Endless Ocean.*



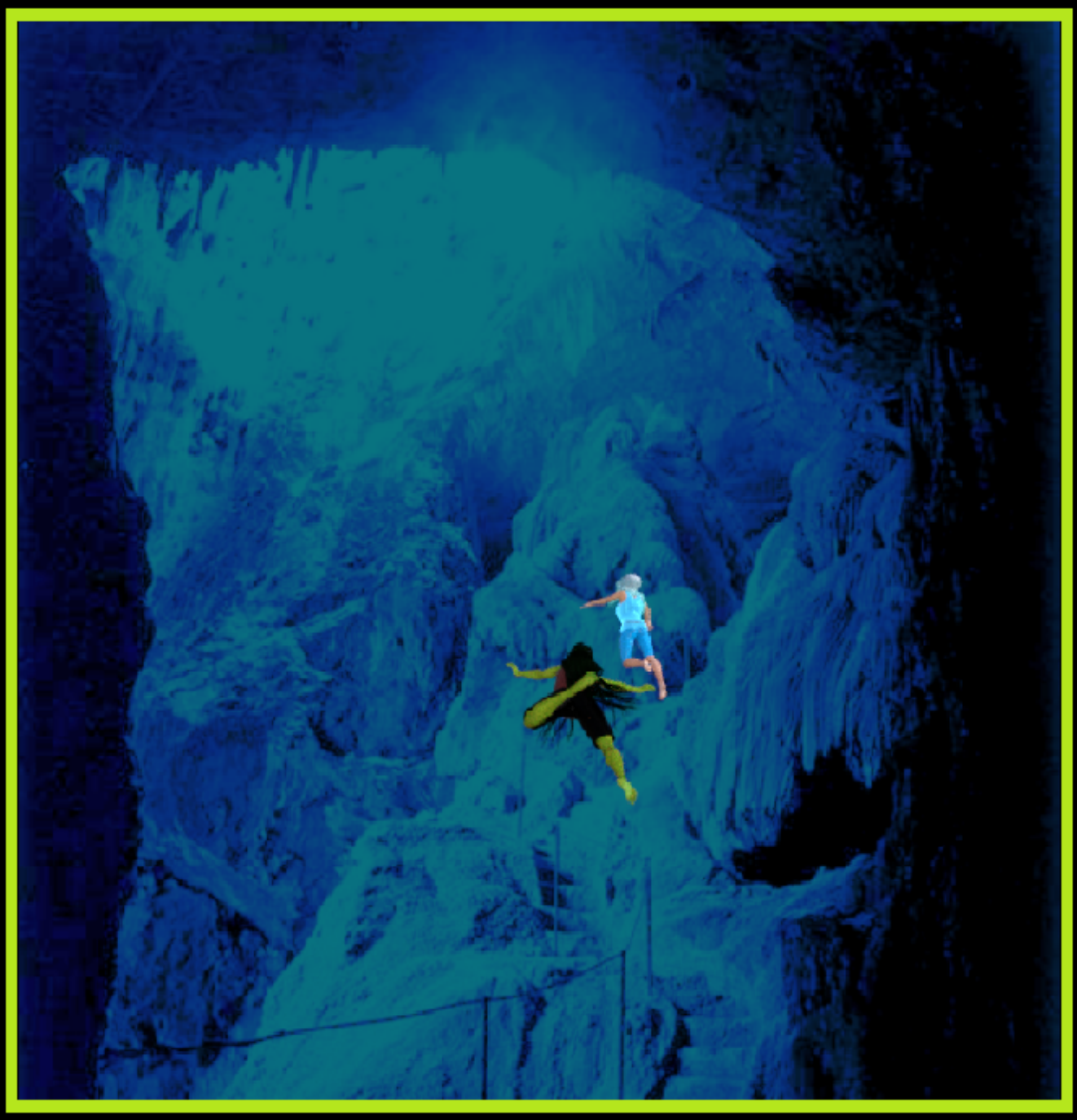
The gateway to Octopolis was located at the bottom of a vast underwater mountain range and was many miles deep. A giant crystal orb was on top of the gateway that acted like a doorway security camera. enabling the police guards and the Queen to see anyone or anything that might be attempting to gain entrance to the city.


Each of the doors weighed tons...


...but opening one of them was child's play for Galena...



We swan through a vast labyrinth of underwater caverns. There was a beautiful luminescent glow that permeated much of the maze. provided by various forms of coral and other deep sea plants.

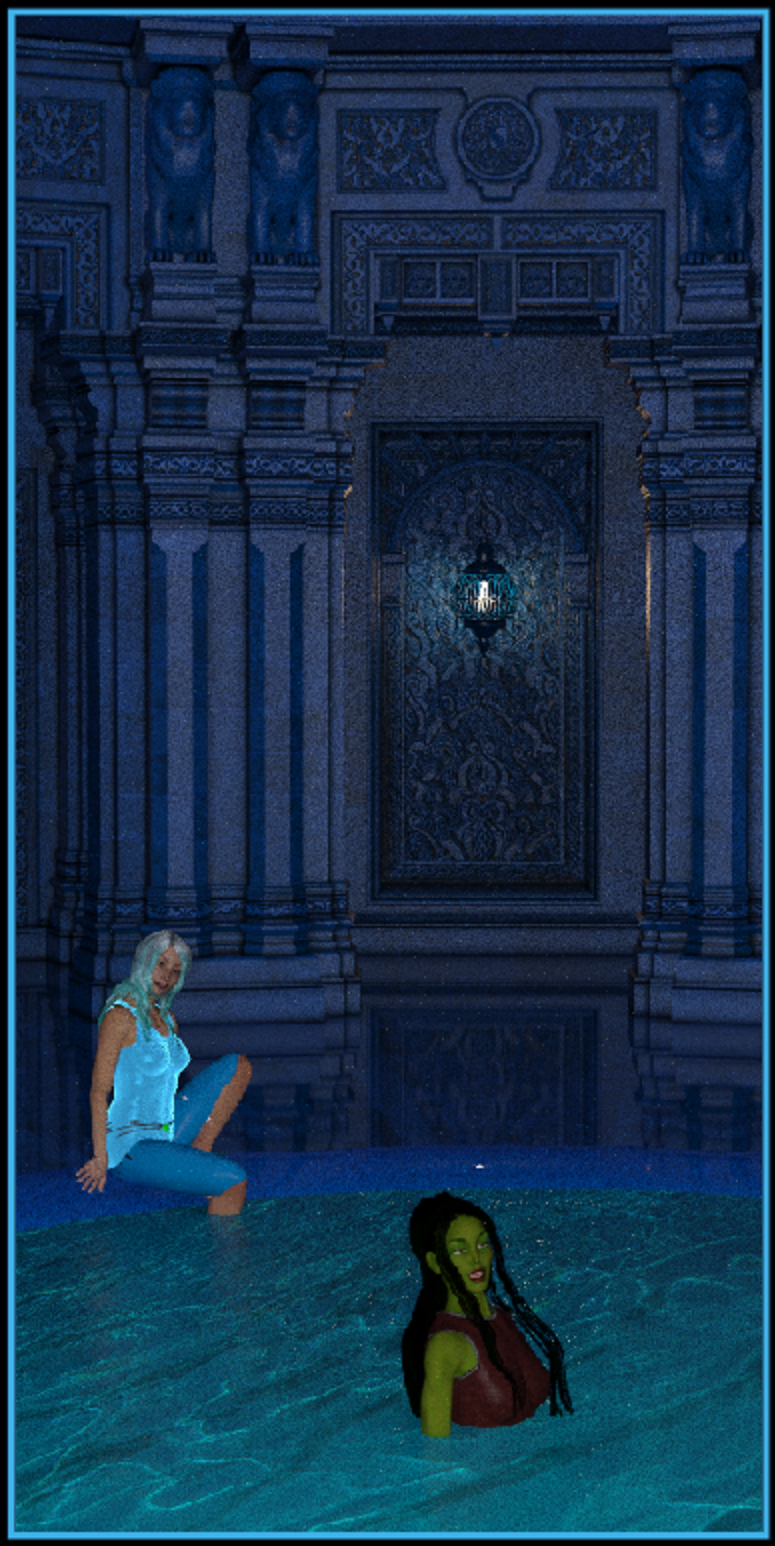


Finally we reached the entrypoint to Queen Aquareine's Palace...the center point of Octopolis...accessed by a pool that connected directly to the tunnel system.

The Palace's entry room was stunning. It appeared to be made out of some alien form of marble.

There was a rich supply of oxygen in the air. Likely there were vents connected to huge arboretums or something similar.

Galena told me that her grandfather had aided greatly in the construction of the Palace many decades ago.



The Palace itself was enormous. We walked for miles on the way to the Throne Room of Queen Aquareine.

The closer we got to the Throne Room.
the brighter it gradually became.

Queen Aquareine was indescribably beautiful.
kind. intelligent and gracious.

Aquareine told me some of the amazing history of the svelte mermaids. or the sea fairies as she liked to call them.

All of the mermaids in all of the worlds had the same two ancestors. she said.

She told me about the evil Zog. who had recently been soundly defeated and imprisoned within Octopolis. along with his entire army.

She also told me about the denizens of the world that Octopolis resided in - a planet known as *OZ*. it was in some respects very similar to the fictional land that L. Frank Baum wrote about. but in many ways very different.

She said that Dorothy and Toto came to Planet Oz from the same world as I did. the true planet Earth. many years ago. I laughed. but she did not.

We spoke for some time. The Queen had visited Earth decades ago and was very interested in how the world had changed since then.

I told them about the kidnappings on our world that led directly to their galaxy. She was not surprised. She explained that for thousands of years there had been many known instances of intergalactic slave trafficking between our two galaxies. Even Queen Dorothy of Oz had been one of them.

I spent several months in Octopolis getting to know the people there and enioying many things. including some of their art. sculpture. scientific knowledge and foods.

The Queen gave me full rein of Octopolis and its scientific facilities and even made me a member of the city council. She. Galena and I became good friends.

I created a new suit for myself that was near indestructible and a utility belt that I stocked with several powerful devices I had created back on Earth. including a powerful sonic blaster that can be used effectively underwater and an invisibility screen.

Queen Aquareine told me that I reminded her in many ways of one of her aunts. A mermaid who had moved to Earth centuries ago and had died saving a number of people from a burning ship. She gave me her name and title. calling me thereafter DYNAMENE.

After several months. Octopolis had become my new home-away-from-home. Queen Aquareine helped me begin my search for the rest of Dream Matrix. She gave me sea maps that showed where all of the known interworld undersea portals were. suggesting that that would likely be the easiest and most stealthy way to enter other worlds and search for clues as to where my companions had gone.

The first portal I used led me to a world called CAROUSEL. The cities on that world were filled with powerhouses. many of whom seemed to have had their genetics altered intentionally by someone so as to mimic some of the physical characteristics of a number of fictional characters of the 1940s.

The first being I met there was the son of two of them. His father was called Barry Kuda and his mother was known as Queen Merma. They named him Barracuda. which was apparently a popular names among Merma's people. as their world's barracuda fish did not harm people and actually carried potent healing enzymes in their saliva.

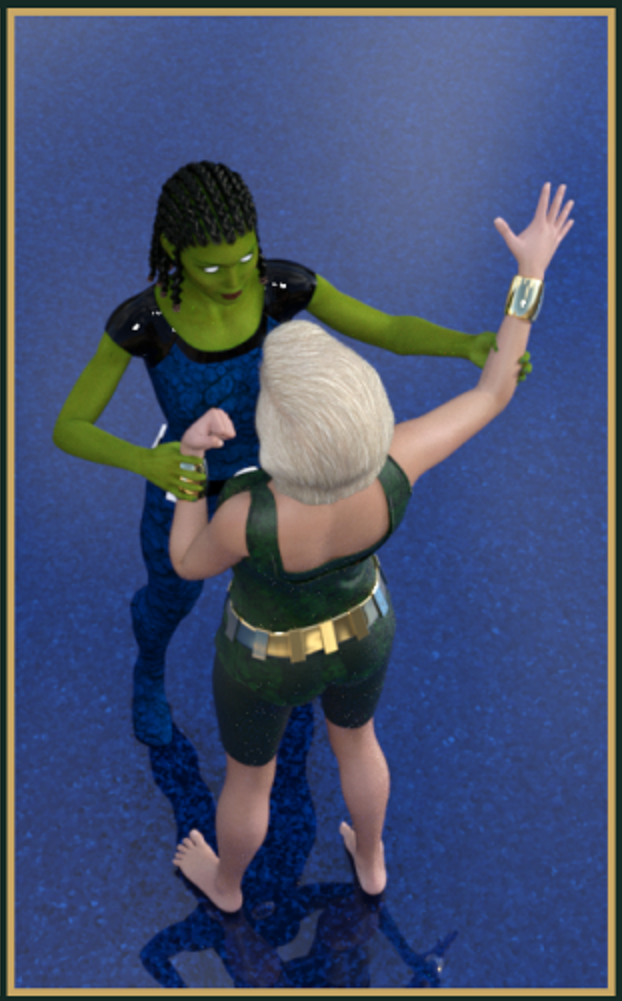
He introduced me to several other 1940's-based mutates. including some of the descendants of their world's versions of: Maior Victory. Black Cobra. Firebrand. Rocketman and Rocketwoman. Echo. Kitty Kelly. Hale the Magician. Yankee Doodle Iones. Dan Hastings. Green Knight and Master Key. He said that they all belonged to a superpowered group of crime-fighters called THE LEGACY LEGION.

The third portal I entered led me to a world called EXODON. It was filled with super-beings and monsters. but many had fled the world to other planets over the past 60 years due to a massive planetary crisis. The first super-being i met there called himself NATURE MAN. after his grandfather. who had been infused with abilities somewhat like those of a fictional charlton comic book character.

Another portal led to a realm called MYTHODOMUS, where I fought the sinister OCTOQUEEN - a criminal mastermind with Level 1 super-strength, Level 5 oceanic stamina and the ability to control cephalopods.

I caught up with her in the midst of a plot to poison an underwater city - for no other reason than to draw a group of her old foes - a super-team she called THE SPACE RANGERS - into an elaborate trap.

It took me nearly an hour to stop her army of mentally-enslaved cephalopods from unleashing her toxins into the water - and even longer to fight my way onto her submarine and past her cadre of sea-people. But for all her high-tech weapons, military combat training and vain braggadocio. After that our fight was over within less than two minutes.



The next portal led to CENTAURUS.

It was filled with super-beings and hidden lands - like NEW AQUATANIA. where I encountered an army of rebel militants who were trying to overthrow the peaceful land.

Founded by emigrants of AQUATANIA. it is a hidden land that had been discovered several decades ago by John Kingsley and Charles and Jeriel Hardy. It exists below the floor of the South Pacific of Planet Earth.

The New Aquatanians were ruled by KING MOGBA. an old friend of Charles and Jeriel Hardy. and his Queen. The rebels numbered in the thousands and possessed Level 1 Super-Strength and Stamina. but their rebellion was stopped within less than two weeks.

The next portal I entered brought me to a world called MIRUS - and directly into the path of a powerhouse called KING NEPTUNE - a man who was being mind-controlled by a sick group called THE MONSTER SOCIETY OF EVIL.

I tried my best to stop him from submerging a large island with a massive tsunami. But he was really wiping the beach with me -

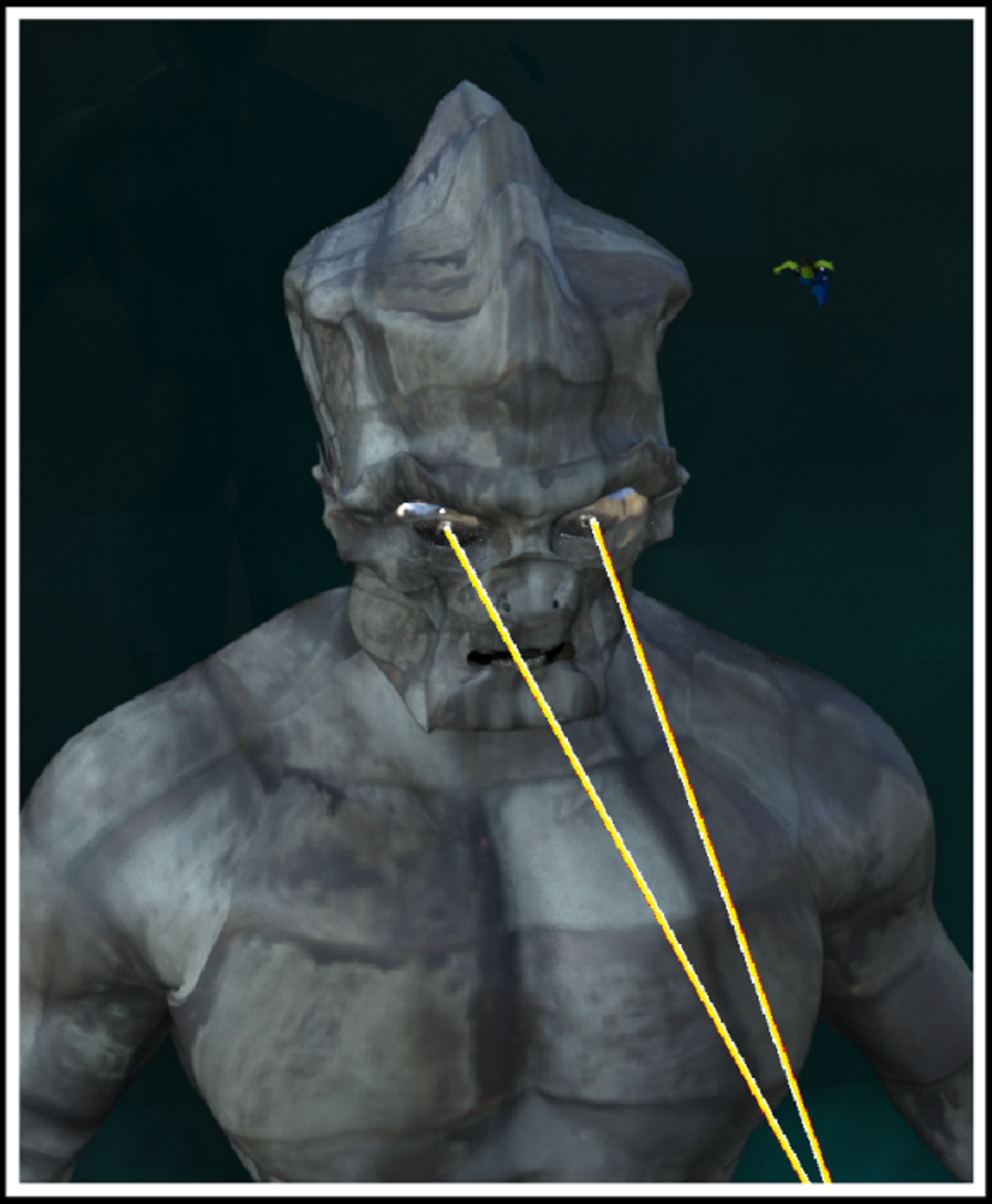
- WHEN IN FLEW THE AMAZING MARY MARVEL!!!

HER STRENGTH WAS INSANE - I ACTUALLY FELT HER PUNCH FROM FEET AWAY - EVEN THOUGH KING NEPTUNE WAS GREATLY WEAKENING HER - BY MANIPULATING THE WATER IN HER BODY!

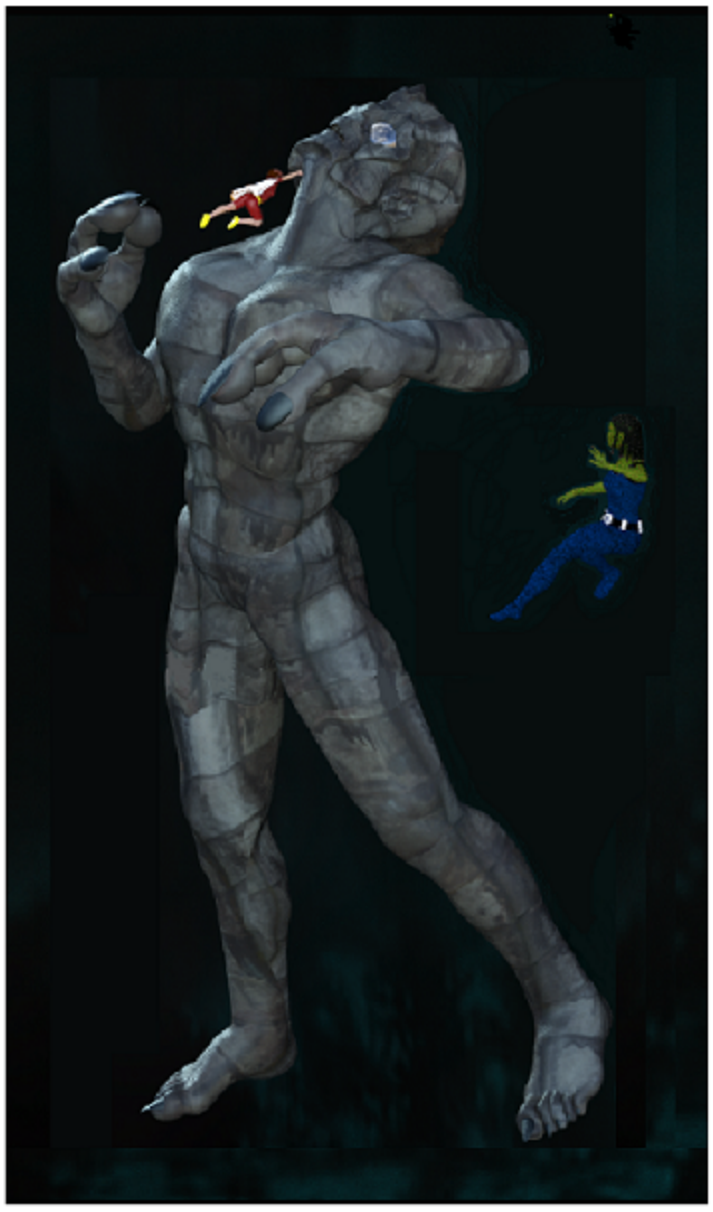
After hours of exhaustive battle. Neptune had knocked me unconscious and had Mary on her back - with his trident at her throat. Using all her strength. Mary was able to hold back his trident long enough to shout out a single word: SHAZAM!!!

The lightning bolt that Mary called was so great it knocked Neptune unconscious - shocked him out of his trance - and sunk the entire island! Using all her vast speed, Mary saved me and all the other people on the island from being killed by the island's collapse.

Neptune gathered together his inner guard and went after several members of the Monster Society - while Mary and I went after the others.



It took us a few days to mop up the mess they had made. The last three members of the Monster Society to fall were Mister Mind. Doctor Sivana and Schoolmistress - we caught up with them near a golden underwater city -



DOCTOR SIVANA AND MISTER MIND HAD CONSTRUCTED AN UNDERSEA ROBOT SUBMARINE WITH WHICH TO LOOT THE CITY OF ITS TREASURES AND ARTIFACTS - AND IT WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO EVEN GIVE HER A RUN FOR HER MONEY. WHILE SHE FOUGHT THE TWO EVIL SCIENTISTS AND THEIR MACHINE -

- I found myself keeping his ally. the sinister Schoolmistress. company -

- She was strong. fast. agile and had some kind of sea life control rod -

Sivana's super-weapons weren't able to stop Mary Marvel -

- and Schoolmistress wound up in detention.

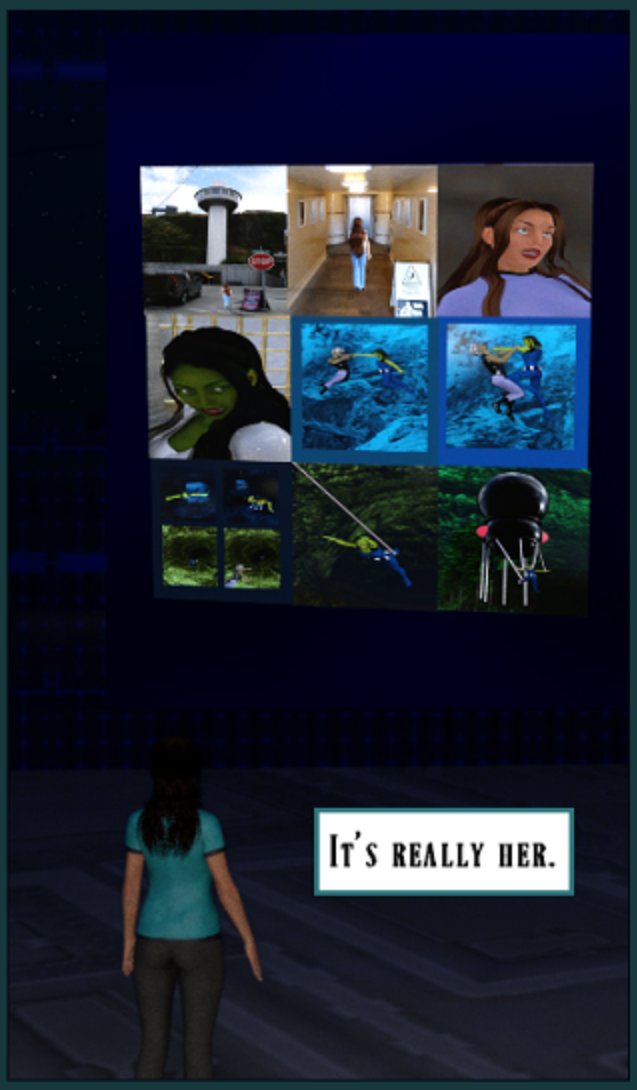
Mary went off after Mister Mind. who had managed to slip away during her fight with Sivana.

TELL ME MORE ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS...

EPILOGUE

NEARLY HALF A GALAXY AWAY...

IT'S HER.


IT'S REALLY HER.

Enoch - I know where Morgan is...

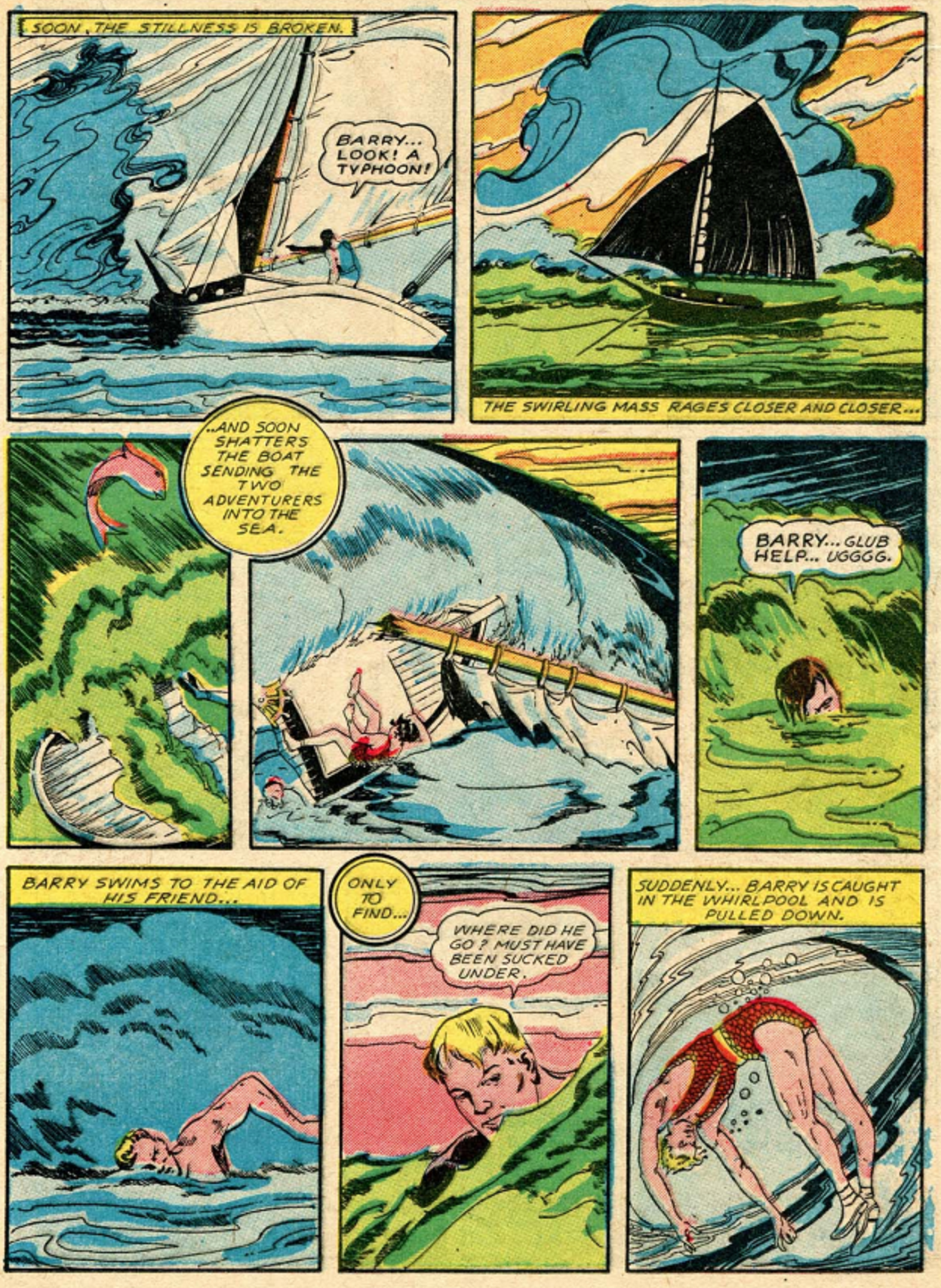
THE DREAM MATRIX FILES

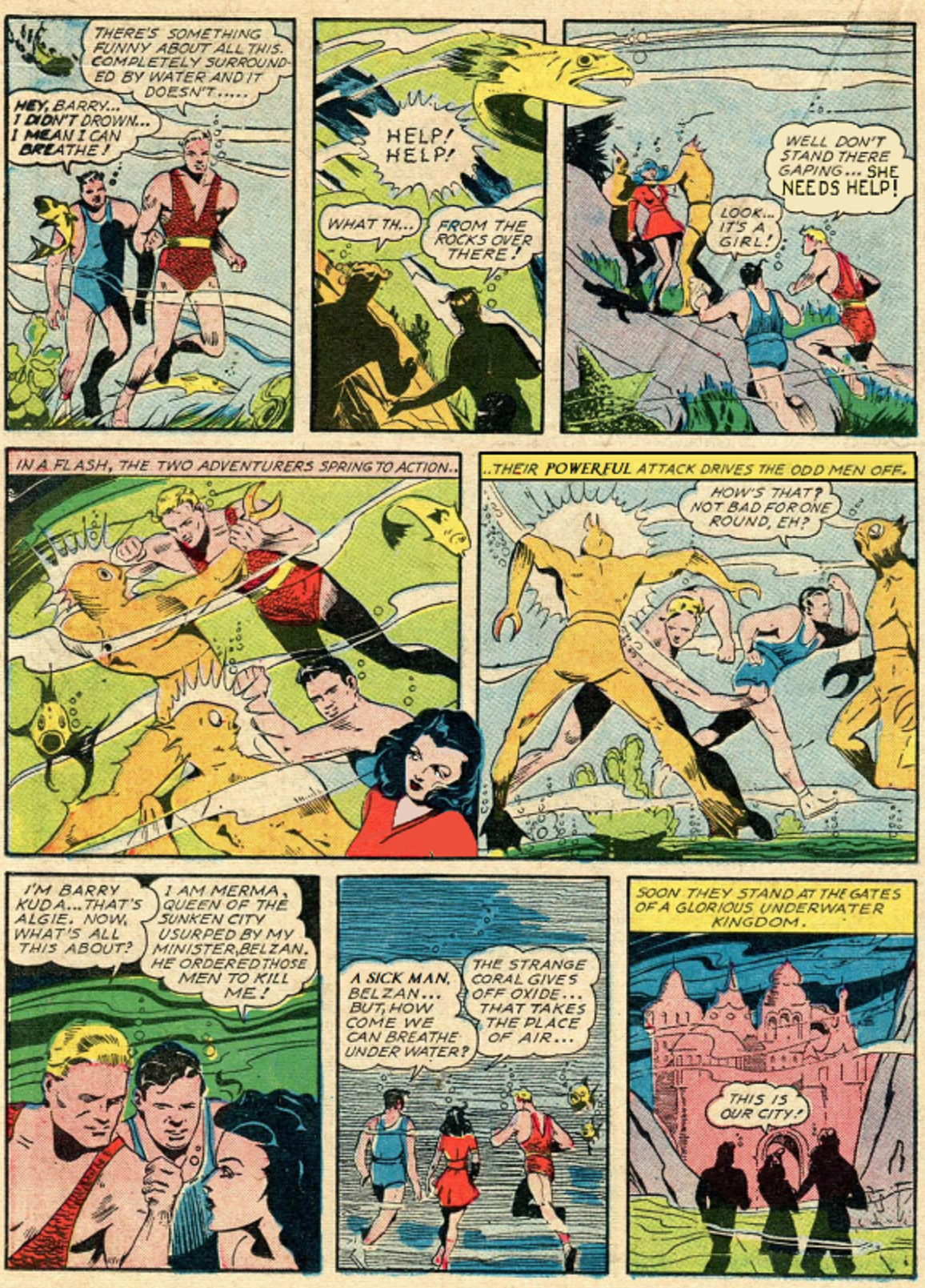
BARRY AND MERMA

File Date: June 3rd. 1945
Location: Planet Carousel
Classification: Unclassified

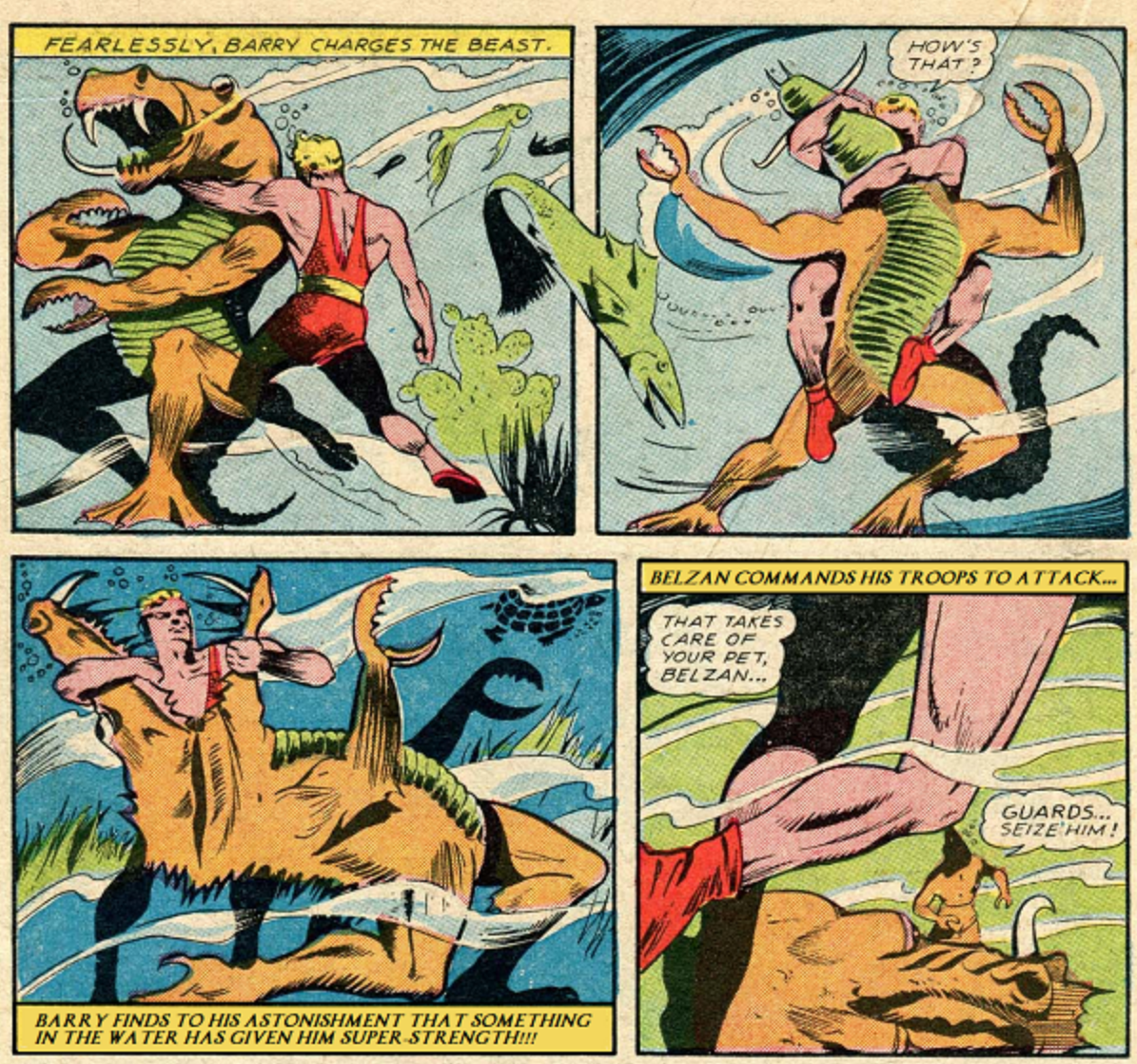
Barry Kuda

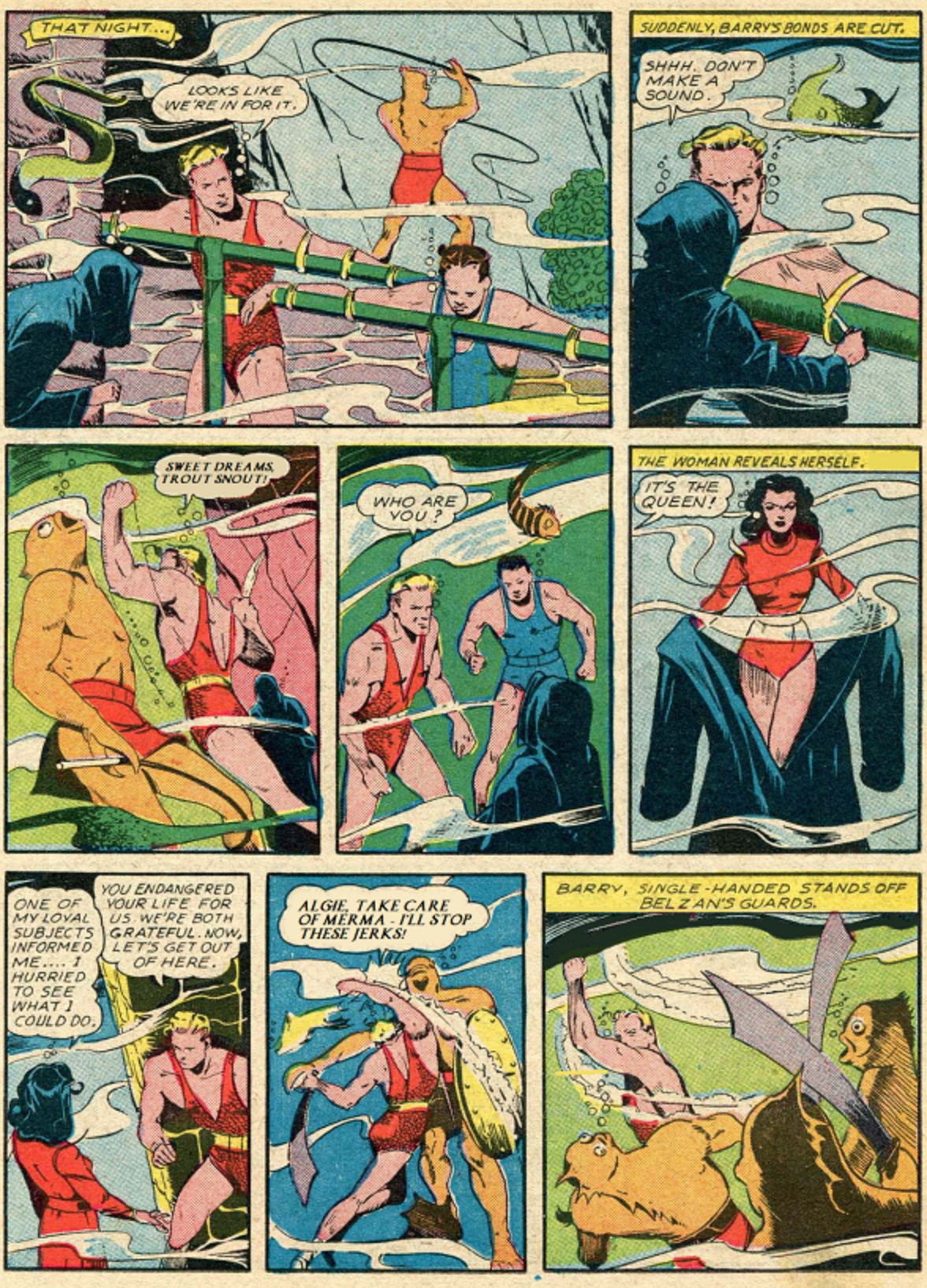
THEIR FRAIL CRAFT SHATTERED BY A RAGING STORM, BARRY KUDA AND HIS PAL, ALGIE, FIND STRANGE WONDERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN.
BARRY AND ALGIE DRIFT LAZILY ALONG THE VAST PACIFIC.
WOULDN'T IT BE SWELL IF WE COULD LAND ON SOME UNCHARTED ISLAND... AND RESCUE A FAIR PRINCESS, ALGIE!
BARRY, I THINK YOU'RE NUTS.. BUT IF SHE'S GOT A FRIEND IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH ME!

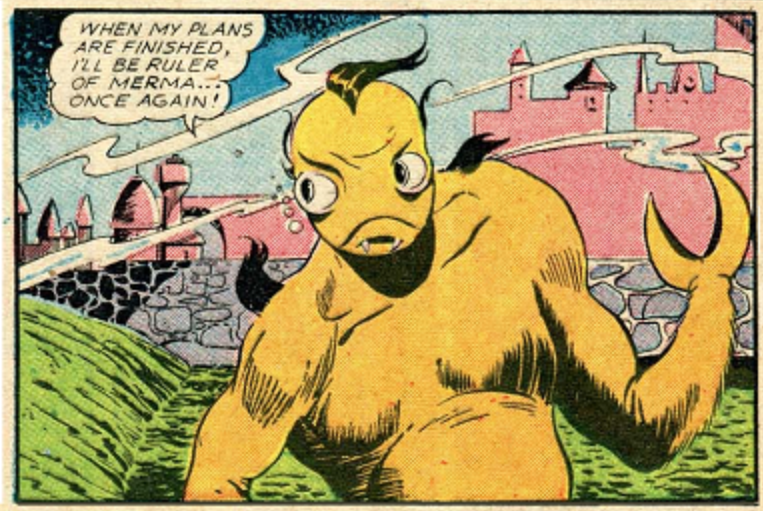

SOON, THE STILLNESS IS BROKEN.
BARRY... LOOK! A TYPHOON!
THE SWIRLING MASS RAGES CLOSER AND CLOSER...
..AND SOON SHATTERS THE BOAT SENDING THE TWO ADVENTURERS INTO THE SEA.
BARRY... GLUB HELP... UGGGG.
BARRY SWIMS TO THE AID OF HIS FRIEND...
ONLY TO FIND...
WHERE DID HE GO? MUST HAVE BEEN SUCKED UNDER.
SUDDENLY... BARRY IS CAUGHT IN THE WHIRLPOOL AND IS PULLED DOWN.


THERE'S SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT ALL THIS. COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY WATER AND IT DOESN'T.....
HEY, BARRY... I DON'T DROWN... I MEAN I CAN BREATHE!
HELP! HELP!
WHAT TH...
FROM THE ROCKS OVER THERE!
WELL DON'T STAND THERE GAPING... SHE NEEDS HELP!
LOOK... IT'S A GIRL!
IN A FLASH, THE TWO ADVENTURERS SPRING TO ACTION..
..THEIR POWERFUL ATTACK DRIVES THE ODD MEN OFF.
HOW'S THAT? NOT BAD FOR ONE ROUND, EH?
I'M BARRY KUDA...THAT'S ALGIE. NOW, WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT?
I AM MERMA, QUEEN OF THE SUNKEN CITY USURPED BY MY MINISTER, BELZAN. HE ORDERED THOSE MEN TO KILL ME!
A SICK MAN, BELZAN... BUT, HOW COME WE CAN BREATHE UNDER WATER?
THE STRANGE CORAL GIVES OFF OXIDE... THAT TAKES THE PLACE OF AIR...
SOON THEY STAND AT THE GATES OF A GLORIOUS UNDERWATER KINGDOM.
THIS IS OUR CITY!

SO THAT'S WHAT BELZAN IS TRYING TO TAKE AWAY FROM YOU? WE'LL DROP IN ON HIM... WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'LL HIDE. I HAVE FRIENDS NEAR HERE!
BARRY... WHAT A ROMANTIC NAME. HMMMMM.
OUTSIDE THE PALACE GATE.
LOOK... THE LAW!
OKAY, PAL, LET'S SHOW HIM OUR TACKLE!
OOOOF!
YIPEEEE! STOPPED AT THE GOAL!
PLEASANT DREAMS!
INSIDE THE PALACE, AT THE THRONE OF THE USURPER.
WHAT IS THAT YOU SAY?
'TIS THEY, GREAT BELZAN. THEY BEAT US AND RESCUED THE QUEEN!
JUST BARRY AND ALGIE.. FROM AMERICA! WE DEMAND THAT THE KINGDOM BE RESTORED TO MERMA!
DOG.. YOU MAKE DEMANDS OF BELZAN? GET MY PET RYTHAM!
INTO THE ROOM STALKS A HORRIBLE LOOKING CREATURE.
FIRST, THE ONE WHO SPOKE... THEN THE OTHER!
I'M NOT AT ALL HAPPY ABOUT IT!
HE MEANS YOU!


FEARLESSLY, BARRY CHARGES THE BEAST.
HOW'S THAT?
BARRY FINDS TO HIS ASTONISHMENT THAT SOMETHING IN THE WATER HAS GIVEN HIM SUPER-STRENGTH!!!
BELZAN COMMANDS HIS TROOPS TO ATTACK...
THAT TAKES CARE OF YOUR PET, BELZAN...
GUARDS... SEIZE HIM!
YOU FOOLS WILL BOTH BOW DOWN BEFORE BELZAN!!
THROW THEM IN THE DUNGEON AND GIVE THEM A HUNDRED LASHES EACH, TONIGHT!


THAT NIGHT...
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN FOR IT.
SUDDENLY, BARRY'S BONDS ARE CUT.
SHHH. DON'T MAKE A SOUND.
SWEET DREAMS, TROUT SNOUT!
WHO ARE YOU?
THE WOMAN REVEALS HERSELF.
IT'S THE QUEEN!
ONE OF MY LOYAL SUBJECTS INFORMED ME.... I HURRIED TO SEE WHAT I COULD DO.
YOU ENDANGERED YOUR LIFE FOR US. WE'RE BOTH GRATEFUL. NOW, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
ALGIE, TAKE CARE OF MERMA - I'LL STOP THESE JERKS!
BARRY, SINGLE-HANDED STANDS OFF BELZAN'S GUARDS.



BELZAN - *AND MANY OTHERS LIKE HIM* - TRIED MANY TIMES TO CONQUER THE KINGDOM - BUT THEY ONLY EVER SUCCEEDED IN GETTING *THEMSELVES* AND THEIR *GANGS CAPTURED AND JAILED!*

THE DREAM MATRIX FILES

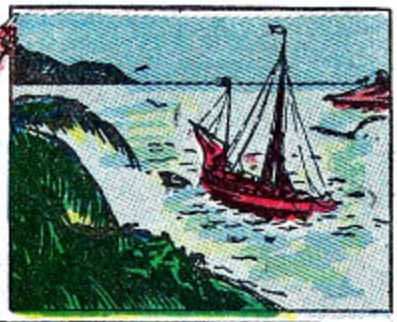
CHARLES AND JERIEL HARDY

File Date: September 8th. 1940
Location: Planet Arcanus
Classification: Unclassified

'CHUCK' HARDY

by Franklyn Thomas

in THE LAND BENEATH THE SEA

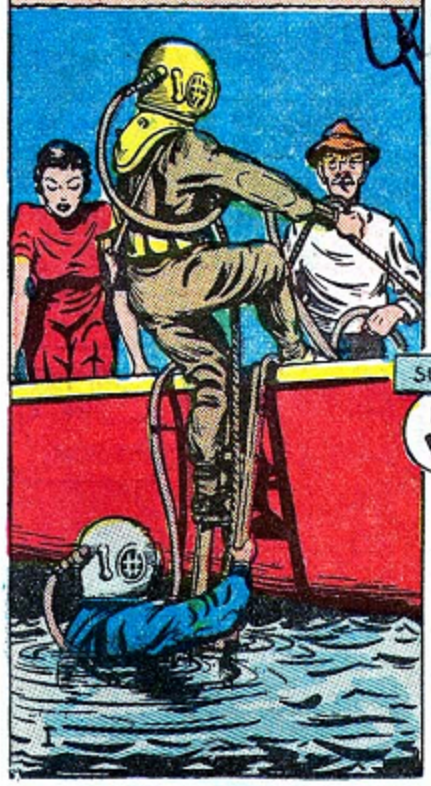


THE SMALL YAWL 'RESEARCH' COMES TO ANCHOR OFF THE ISLAND OF TAHUATA, ONE OF THE MARQUESAN GROUP, IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.....

ABOARD THE VESSEL, A SMALL PARTY OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS, HEADED BY PROFESSOR KINGSLEY, OF PORTMOUTH UNIVERSITY, PREPARE FOR THE DAY'S UNDERSEA EXPEDITION BY TWO OF ITS MEMBERS —

OH YEAH? IF I DON'T DO BETTER THAN YOU DID YESTERDAY, I'LL STAY UNDER.... YOU WERE DOWN AN HOUR AND ALL YOU BROUGHT UP WAS SEAWEED! WATCH ME TODAY, JERRY, AND LEARN!

EQUIPMENT ADJUSTED, JERRY AND CHUCK DESCEND TO THE BLUE DEPTHS OF THE PACIFIC —



SUDDENLY, ABOARD THE "RESEARCH"!

THE AMAZED SCIENTISTS ARE SPELL-BOUND AS A TINY VOLCANIC ISLAND TO THE EAST BURSTS INTO ACTION, WITHOUT WARNING —!

WE HAVEN'T A SECOND TO LOSE!! GET JERRY AND CHUCK UP ON BOARD! HURRY!! THIS WATER WILL BE BOILING HOT IN JUST A FEW MINUTES! IF WE DON'T GET OUT OF HERE WE'LL ALL BE KILLED!
BUT TOO LATE!—UNDERSEA, THE TWO EXPLORERS CLING TO EACH OTHER AS CURRENTS SWIRL AND THE OCEAN BOTTOM TREMBLES!
SUDDENLY THE OCEAN FLOOR GIVES WAY BENEATH THEIR FEET!!
LIFE LINES SNAP AS CHUCK AND JERRY FLASH DOWNWARD!
THERE IS A DISTANT RUMBLE, AS OF THUNDER....THE FALL OF WATER, WITH ITS HUMAN CARGO, ENDS ABRUPTLY!
JERRY'S UNCONSCIOUS!— IF I'M NOT SEEING THINGS, THERE'S LIGHT UP AHEAD! MUST HURRY! I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL WEAK AND SHAKY!
GUESS WE'LL MAKE IT! YOU'RE A HEFTY DRAG IN THAT OUTFIT, PARTNER! —UNGH! —IF THIS IS A DREAM, I WISH THE ALARM WOULD GO OFF!
WHAT'S HAPPENED??? —WHERE AM I?? CHUCK! OOH!! —LET ME TAKE OFF YOUR HELMET!!
SUCH A QUEER PLACE! WHERE ARE WE?? —ARE WE—CAN THIS BE HEAVEN??
SEARCH ME, JERRY!—I'M TOO HAPPY TO BE IN ONE PIECE TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE YET!
WE'LL TAKE A STROLL AROUND AND TRY TO FIGURE IT OUT...WISH WE HAD A GUN!
2
LOOK OUT CHUCK!!— —BEHIND YOU!!

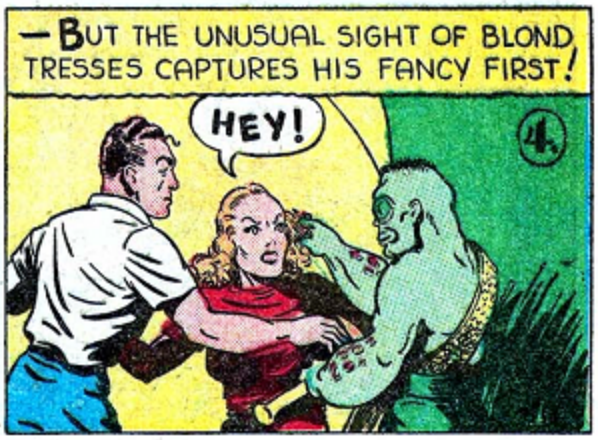
FROM THE FOLIAGE STEPS FORTH A BAND AS WEIRD AND UNREAL AS THEIR SURROUNDINGS!
GREETINGS! —WELL? SPEAK UP!! - WHO ARE YOU? WHERE ARE WE? WHAT—
HUSH CHUCK!! THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND! ACT FRIENDLY!
THE LEADER SUDDENLY POINTS EXCITEDLY AND SCREAMS A COMMAND!
PANIC BREAKS OUT AS A DREADED SALAMANDRON APPROACHES!!
BELLOWING IN RAGE, THE BEAST CHARGES!
RUN FOR A TREE JERRY!!
LOOK!-THAT POOR CHAP FELL! —HIS FOOT'S CAUGHT IN A VINE!
CHUCK!
SURPRISED BY CHUCK'S SUDDEN APPEARANCE, THE SALAMANDRON HESITATES AND EYES HIS NEW FOE....

THE BEAST SINKS SLOWLY — THE AXE DRIVEN DEEPLY INTO ITS SKULL!
—GUESS WE'VE FOUND A PAL, JERRY...
THE RESCUED MAN EXPRESSES HIS JOY AND GRATITUDE!
BY SAVING HIM FROM THAT BEAST WE'VE MADE ONE FRIEND.... I HOPE THE OTHERS FEEL THE SAME WAY!
WE CAN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD YOU'RE SAYING, PARTNER... BUT WE KNOW YOU ARE GRATEFUL..... WISH I COULD FIND THE KEY TO YOUR LANGUAGE.... TELL US.. WHERE ARE WE?? WHAT IS YOUR NAME??.... YOUR NAME! NAME!
2.
CHUCK!.....JER-RY!... .....WHO ARE YOU??
CHUCK POINTS FIRST TO HIMSELF.. ...THEN JERRY...SPEAKING THEIR NAMES
MOGRA! MOGRA!
3.
UNKNOWN TO CHUCK, "MOGRA" HAD ONCE BEEN A NORMAL SWISS MAN NAMED "MORGAN."
ATTABOY MOGRA!!
CHUCK!! HERE COME THE OTHERS BACK!
4.
P.4
GO AHEAD MOGRA!... ...SPEAK YOUR PIECE! TELL THEM WHAT GRAND FOLKS WE ARE!

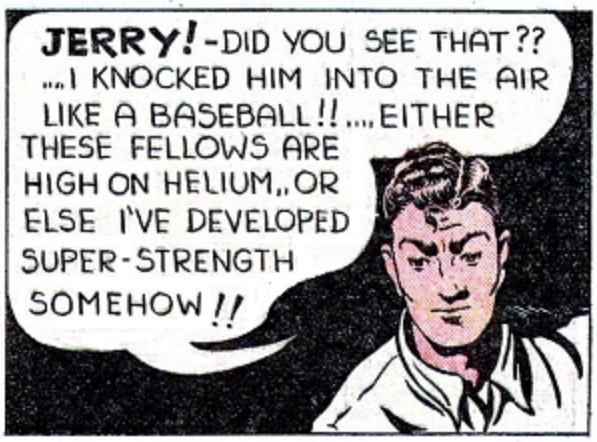
MOGRA ARGUES EXCITEDLY WITH THE LEADER!

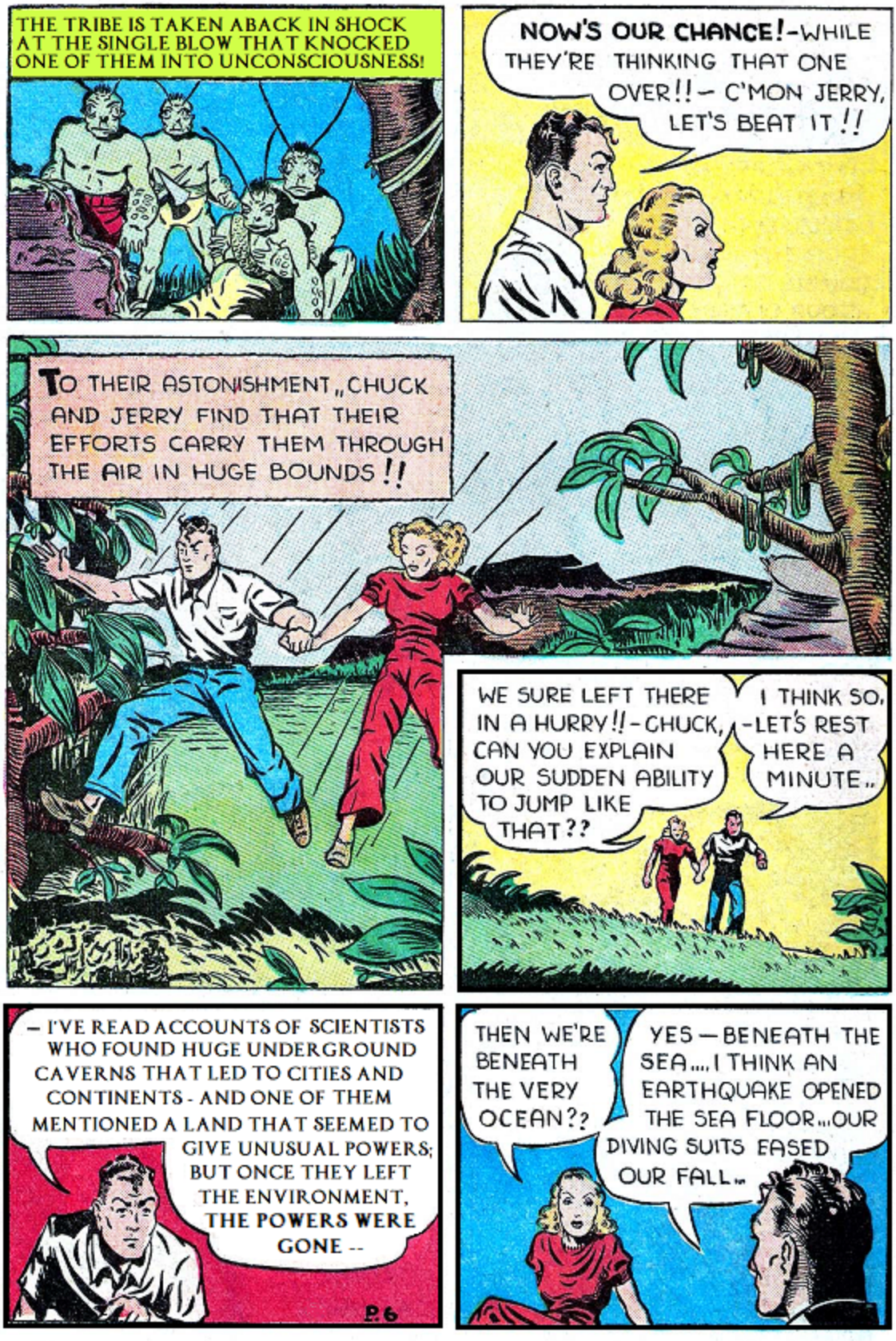
2.

WOOF!.. THE CHIEF STRAIGHT-ARMS 'EM!! POOR MOGRA!... IF HE TRIES THAT ON ME, HE'S DUE FOR A SURPRISE!!
3.


—BUT THE UNUSUAL SIGHT OF BLOND TRESSES CAPTURES HIS FANCY FIRST!
HEY!
4.

HANDS OFF - YOU GORILLA!
5.
P.5


JERRY! - DID YOU SEE THAT?? ...I KNOCKED HIM INTO THE AIR LIKE A BASEBALL!! ....EITHER THESE FELLOWS ARE HIGH ON HELIUM,.. OR ELSE I'VE DEVELOPED SUPER-STRENGTH SOMEHOW!!


THE TRIBE IS TAKEN ABACK IN SHOCK AT THE SINGLE BLOW THAT KNOCKED ONE OF THEM INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS!
NOW'S OUR CHANCE!-WHILE THEY'RE THINKING THAT ONE OVER!!- C'MON JERRY, LET'S BEAT IT!!
TO THEIR ASTONISHMENT, CHUCK AND JERRY FIND THAT THEIR EFFORTS CARRY THEM THROUGH THE AIR IN HUGE BOUNDS!!
WE SURE LEFT THERE IN A HURRY!!-CHUCK, CAN YOU EXPLAIN OUR SUDDEN ABILITY TO JUMP LIKE THAT??
I THINK SO, -LET'S REST HERE A MINUTE..
- I'VE READ ACCOUNTS OF SCIENTISTS WHO FOUND HUGE UNDERGROUND CAVERNS THAT LED TO CITIES AND CONTINENTS - AND ONE OF THEM MENTIONED A LAND THAT SEEMED TO GIVE UNUSUAL POWERS; BUT ONCE THEY LEFT THE ENVIRONMENT, THE POWERS WERE GONE --
P.6
THEN WE'RE BENEATH THE VERY OCEAN??
YES - BENEATH THE SEA.... I THINK AN EARTHQUAKE OPENED THE SEA FLOOR... OUR DIVING SUITS EASED OUR FALL..

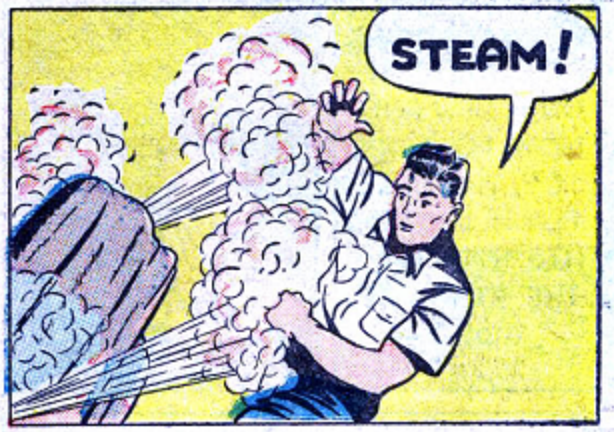
IT SEEMS TO BE A VAST TERRITORY— .....AND I'VE A HUNCH THAT MOGBA AND HIS BAND ARE NOT RULERS HERE!!
IF THEY ARE ANYTHING LIKE MOST OF THE RULERS ABOVE, WE MAY END UP NEEDING ALL OF OUR NEW SUPER-ABILITIES!
RIGHT!! BUT MY CHIEF WORRY NOW IS- ...I'M HUNGRY! -AND I'M THIRSTY!
I'LL JUMP INTO THAT TREE—MAYBE I CAN SIGHT WATER—OR EVEN A HAMBURGER STAND!
P.7
CHUCK AND JERRY'S BIZARRE ADVENTURES UNDER THE OCEAN HAD BARELY BEGUN...

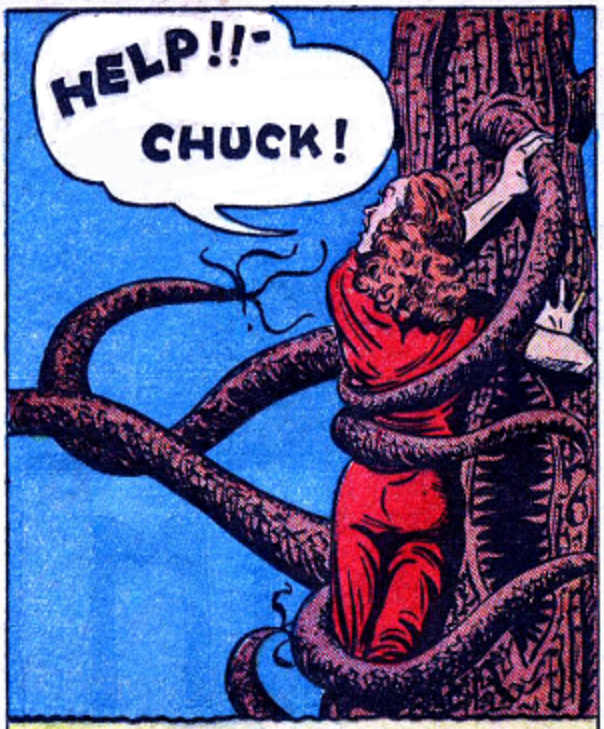
CHUCK HARDY

by Frank Thomas

IN THE LAND BENEATH THE SEA

TIRED AND HUNGRY, CHUCK AND JERRY WANDER ABOUT THE STRANGE LAND OF AQUATANIA, BELOW THE OCEAN BOTTOM.... HAVING ESCAPED THE FROG-MEN, JERRY CLIMBS A TREE IN AN EFFORT TO SIGHT WATER!

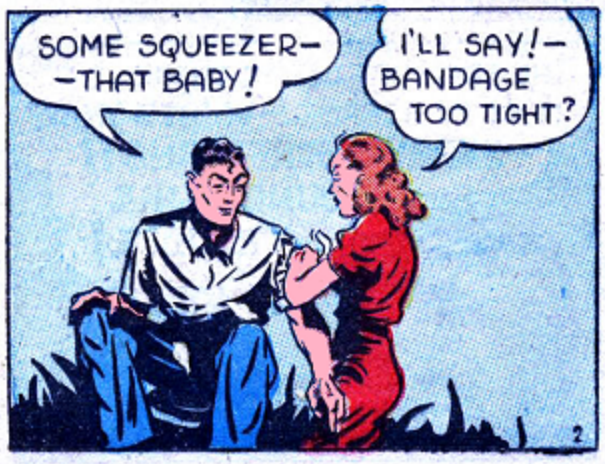


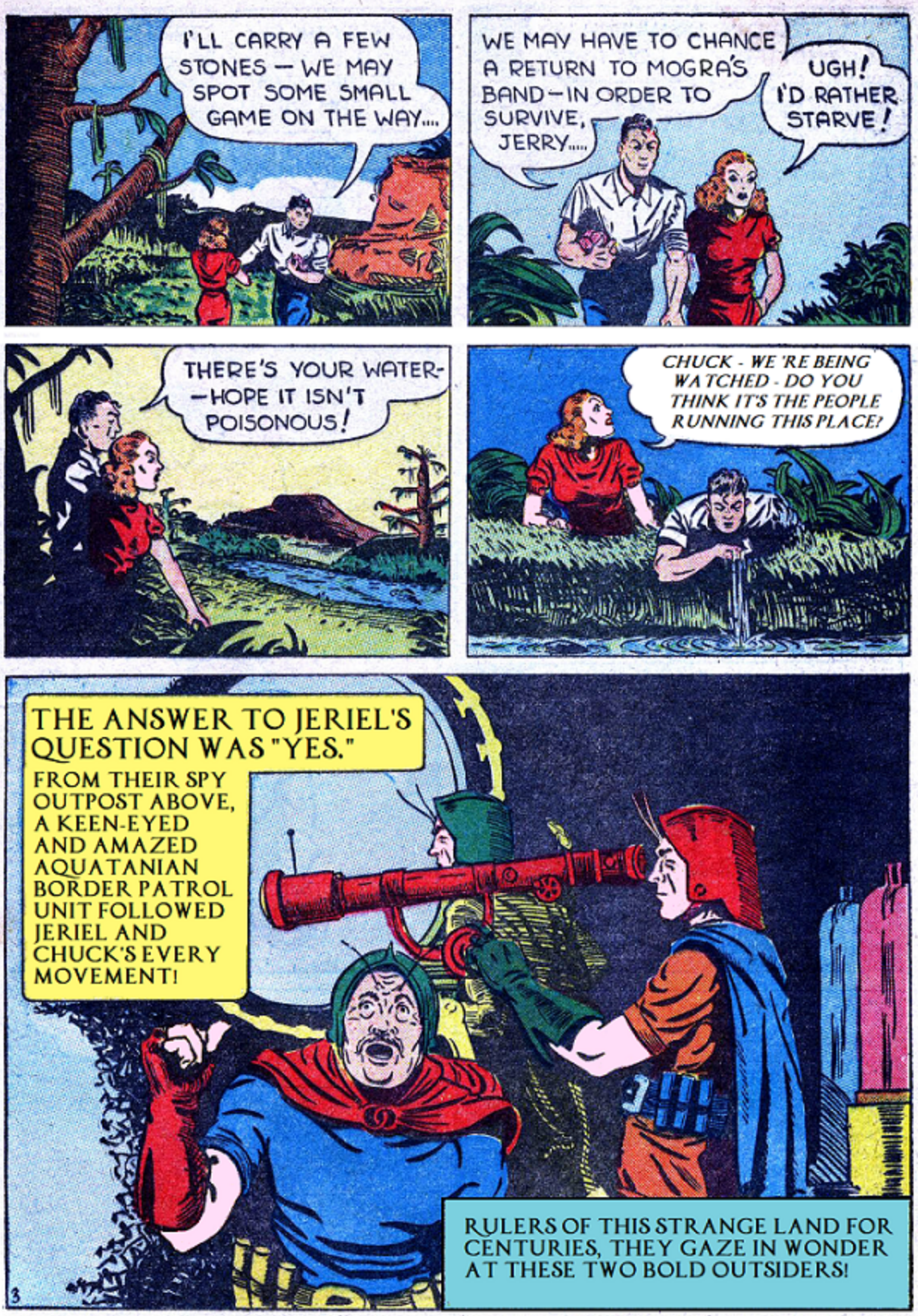


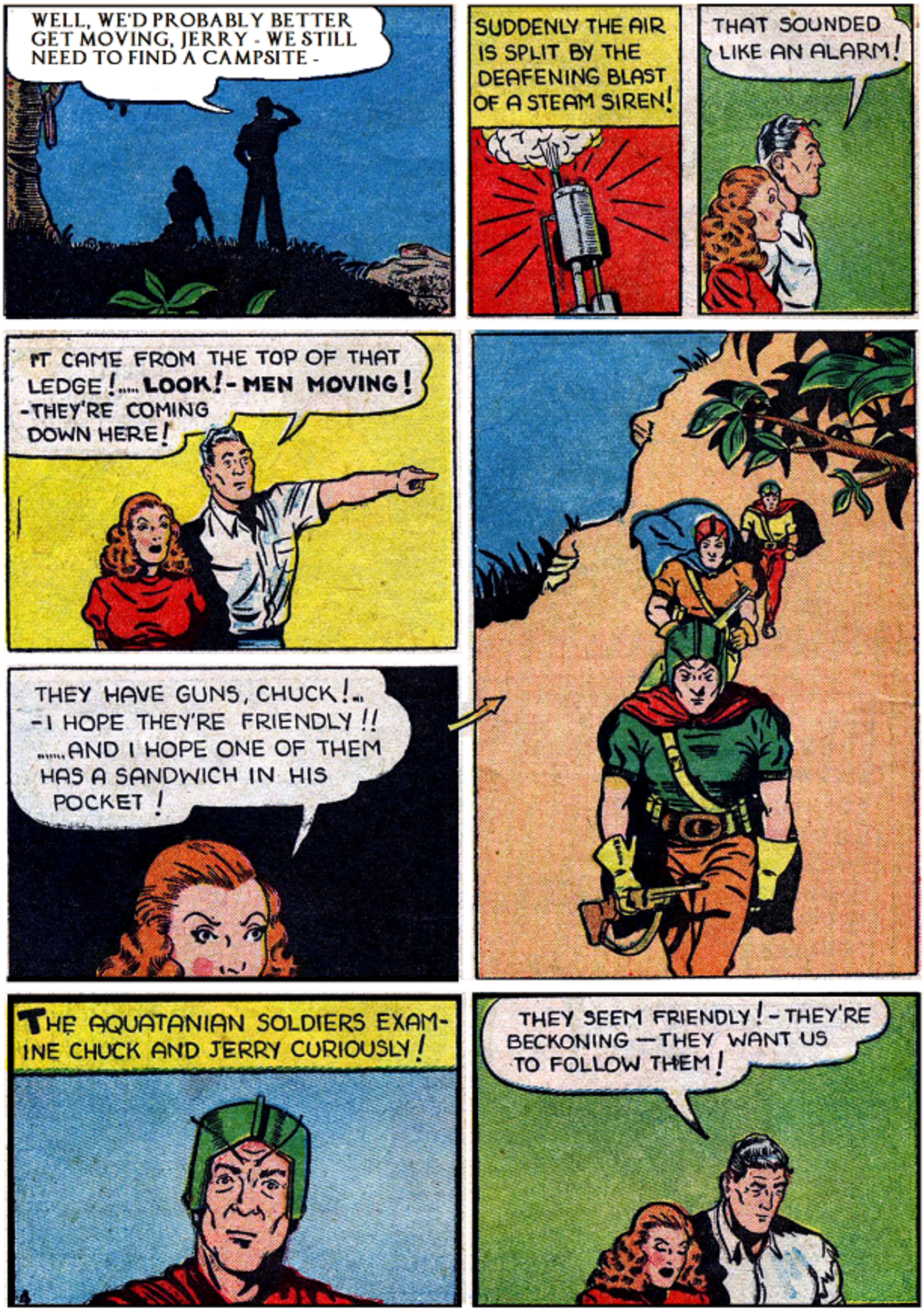
UNKNOWINGLY, JERRY CLIMBS INTO THE SLIMY ARMS OF A CARNIVOROUS **STRANGLE-PLANT!**

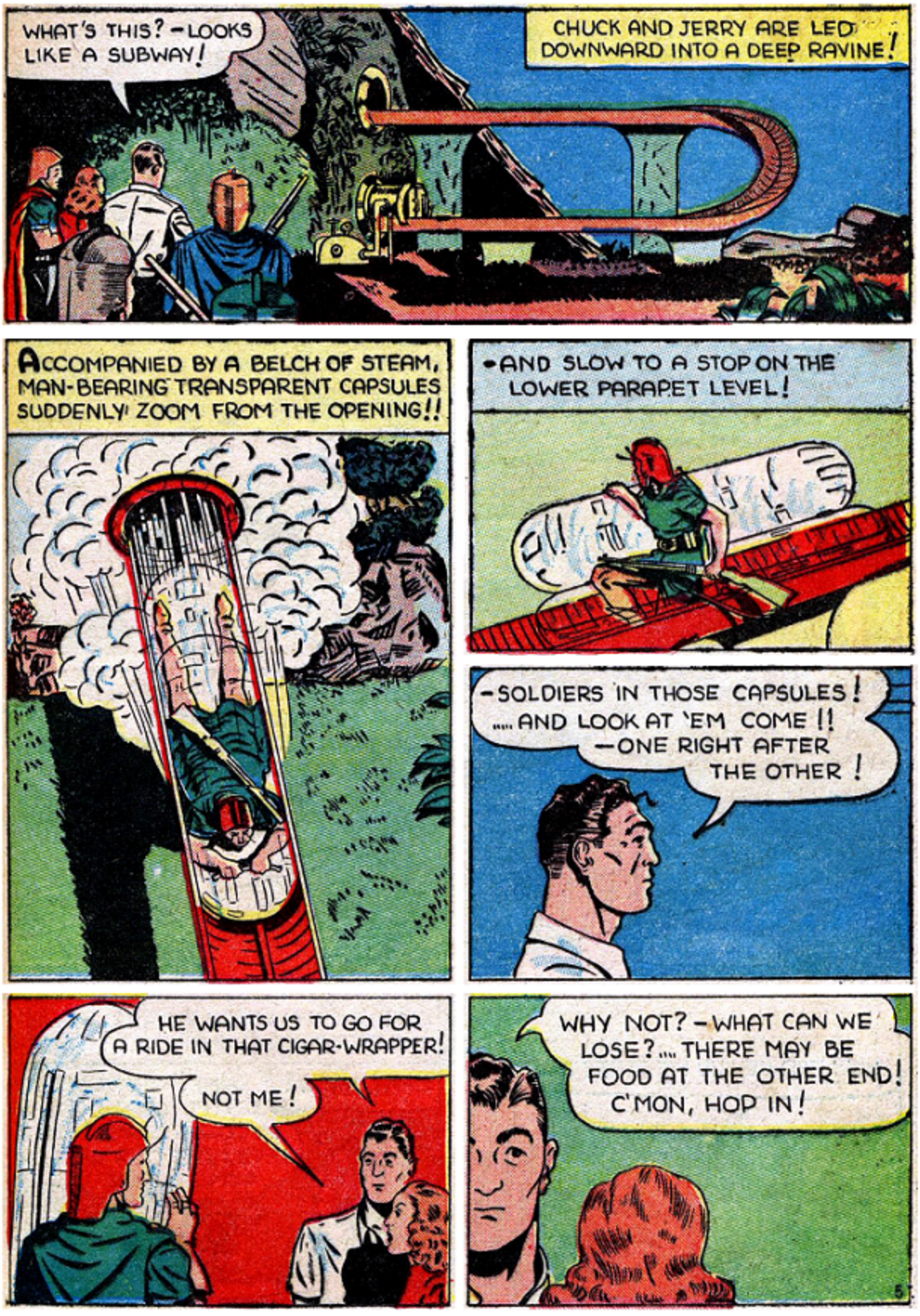
CONCENTRATING ITS STRENGTH ON A NEW AND MORE POWERFUL FOE, THE HUGE PLANT LOOSENS ITS HOLD ON THE EXHAUSTED GIRL!—

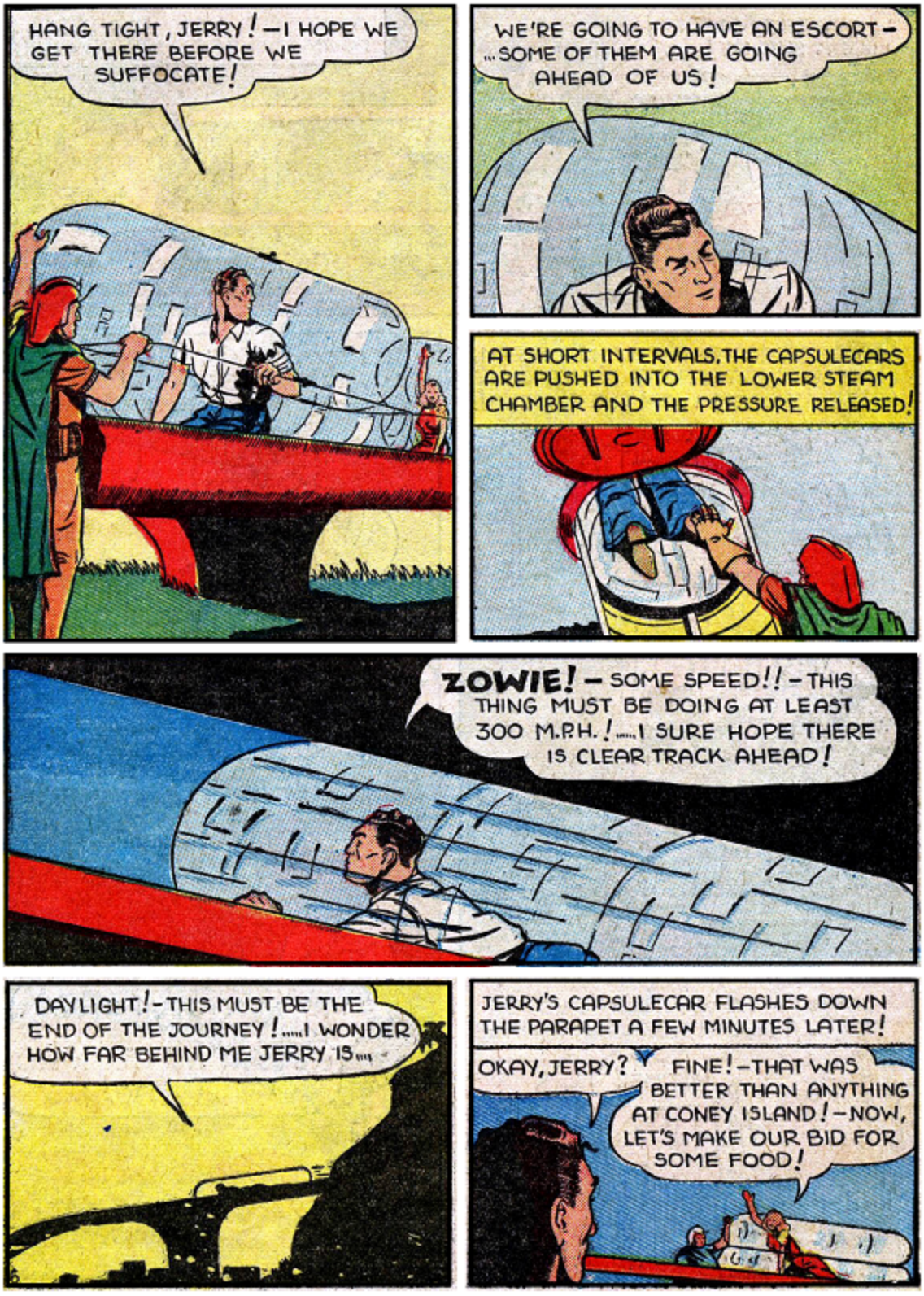
FIGHTING DESPERATELY, CHUCK BREAKS FREE!




I'LL CARRY A FEW STONES — WE MAY SPOT SOME SMALL GAME ON THE WAY....
WE MAY HAVE TO CHANCE A RETURN TO MOGRA'S BAND — IN ORDER TO SURVIVE, JERRY.....
UGH! I'D RATHER STARVE!
THERE'S YOUR WATER- — HOPE IT ISN'T POISONOUS!
CHUCK - WE 'RE BEING WATCHED - DO YOU THINK IT'S THE PEOPLE RUNNING THIS PLACE?
THE ANSWER TO JERIEL'S QUESTION WAS "YES."
FROM THEIR SPY OUTPOST ABOVE, A KEEN-EYED AND AMAZED AQUATANIAN BORDER PATROL UNIT FOLLOWED JERIEL AND CHUCK'S EVERY MOVEMENT!
RULERS OF THIS STRANGE LAND FOR CENTURIES, THEY GAZE IN WONDER AT THESE TWO BOLD OUTSIDERS!
3


WELL, WE'D PROBABLY BETTER GET MOVING, JERRY - WE STILL NEED TO FIND A CAMPSITE -
SUDDENLY THE AIR IS SPLIT BY THE DEAFENING BLAST OF A STEAM SIREN!
THAT SOUNDED LIKE AN ALARM!
IT CAME FROM THE TOP OF THAT LEDGE!..... LOOK! - MEN MOVING! -THEY'RE COMING DOWN HERE!
THEY HAVE GUNS, CHUCK!.. -I HOPE THEY'RE FRIENDLY!! .....AND I HOPE ONE OF THEM HAS A SANDWICH IN HIS POCKET!
THE AQUATANIAN SOLDIERS EXAMINE CHUCK AND JERRY CURIOUSLY!
THEY SEEM FRIENDLY! - THEY'RE BECKONING — THEY WANT US TO FOLLOW THEM!


WHAT'S THIS? - LOOKS LIKE A SUBWAY!
CHUCK AND JERRY ARE LED DOWNWARD INTO A DEEP RAVINE!
ACCOMPANIED BY A BELCH OF STEAM, MAN-BEARING TRANSPARENT CAPSULES SUDDENLY ZOOM FROM THE OPENING!!
-AND SLOW TO A STOP ON THE LOWER PARAPET LEVEL!
-SOLDIERS IN THOSE CAPSULES! ... AND LOOK AT 'EM COME!! -ONE RIGHT AFTER THE OTHER!
HE WANTS US TO GO FOR A RIDE IN THAT CIGAR-WRAPPER!
NOT ME!
WHY NOT? - WHAT CAN WE LOSE? ... THERE MAY BE FOOD AT THE OTHER END! C'MON, HOP IN!
5


HANG TIGHT, JERRY! — I HOPE WE GET THERE BEFORE WE SUFFOCATE!
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE AN ESCORT — ...SOME OF THEM ARE GOING AHEAD OF US!
AT SHORT INTERVALS, THE CAPSULECARS ARE PUSHED INTO THE LOWER STEAM CHAMBER AND THE PRESSURE RELEASED!
ZOWIE! — SOME SPEED!! — THIS THING MUST BE DOING AT LEAST 300 M.P.H.! ..... I SURE HOPE THERE IS CLEAR TRACK AHEAD!
DAYLIGHT! — THIS MUST BE THE END OF THE JOURNEY! ..... I WONDER HOW FAR BEHIND ME JERRY IS ....
JERRY'S CAPSULECAR FLASHES DOWN THE PARAPET A FEW MINUTES LATER!
OKAY, JERRY?
FINE! — THAT WAS BETTER THAN ANYTHING AT CONEY ISLAND! — NOW, LET'S MAKE OUR BID FOR SOME FOOD!

QUICKLY SENSING HIS CAPTIVES' HUNGER, THE PATROL CAPTAIN LEADS THEM TO HIS OWN BARRACK KITCHENS..
AT LONG LAST!.....THE FOOD TASTES FUNNY, BUT GOOD!
YEAH.....WHAT'S ALL THE NOISE OUTSIDE?
IT'S A MOB!-I GUESS OUR ARRIVAL HAS STIRRED UP SOME EXCITEMENT!
I DON'T WONDER!...WE MUST LOOK LIKE QUEER SPECIMENS TO THEM!.....WE WILL HURRY AND LEARN THEIR LANGUAGE, SO WE CAN FIND OUT FOR SURE WHAT THIS PLACE IS ALL ABOUT!
-AND FROM WHAT WE'VE SEEN THUS FAR, I'D SAY WE HAVE A LOT TO LEARN!
A LOT TO LEARN - AND NOT MUCH TIME TO LEARN IT! FOR GREAT DANGERS AWAITED CHUCK AND JERRY FROM BOTH WITHIN AQUATANIA AND FROM OTHER HIDDEN LANDS!

CHUCK HARDY

by Frank Thomas

IN THE LAND BENEATH THE SEA

PROVIDED WITH A GOOD MEAL BY THE PATROL CAPTAIN.. CHUCK AND JERRY ARE PROPERLY GARBED IN NATIVE ATTIRE AND MADE READY TO BE TAKEN BEFORE *KUSTAN, THE HIGHEST ONE* – RULER OF ALL AQUATANIA!

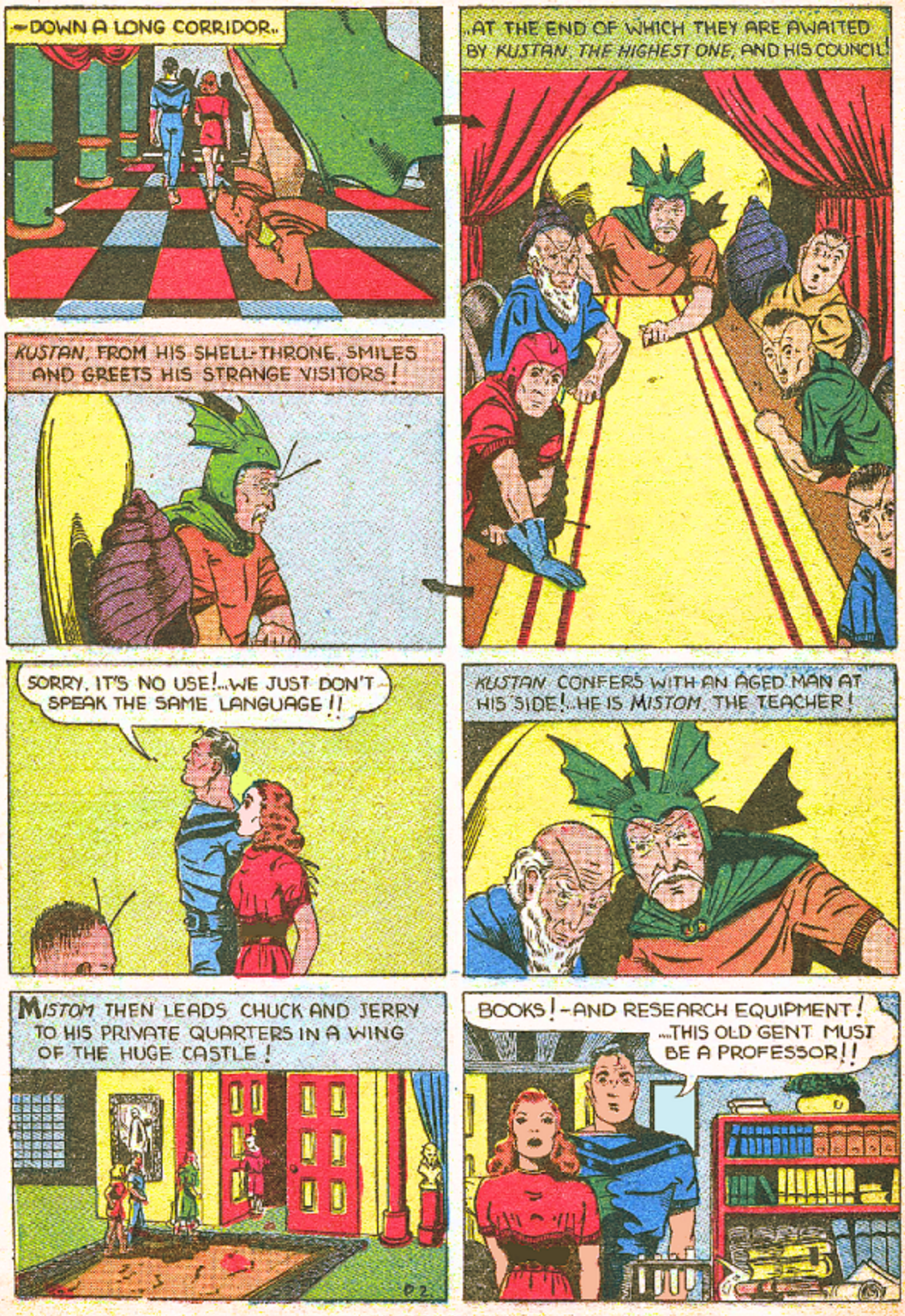
HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR NEW ENSEMBLE JERRY?

IT'S A BIT UNUSUAL, BUT COMFORTABLE! – THEY MUST BE GETTING US READY FOR OUR DEBUT!!

YES... ALL THIS PREPARATION CAN MEAN ONLY ONE THING — WE ARE TO BE LOOKED OVER BY THE HEAD MAN..... I HOPE WE MAKE A FAVORABLE IMPRESSION!

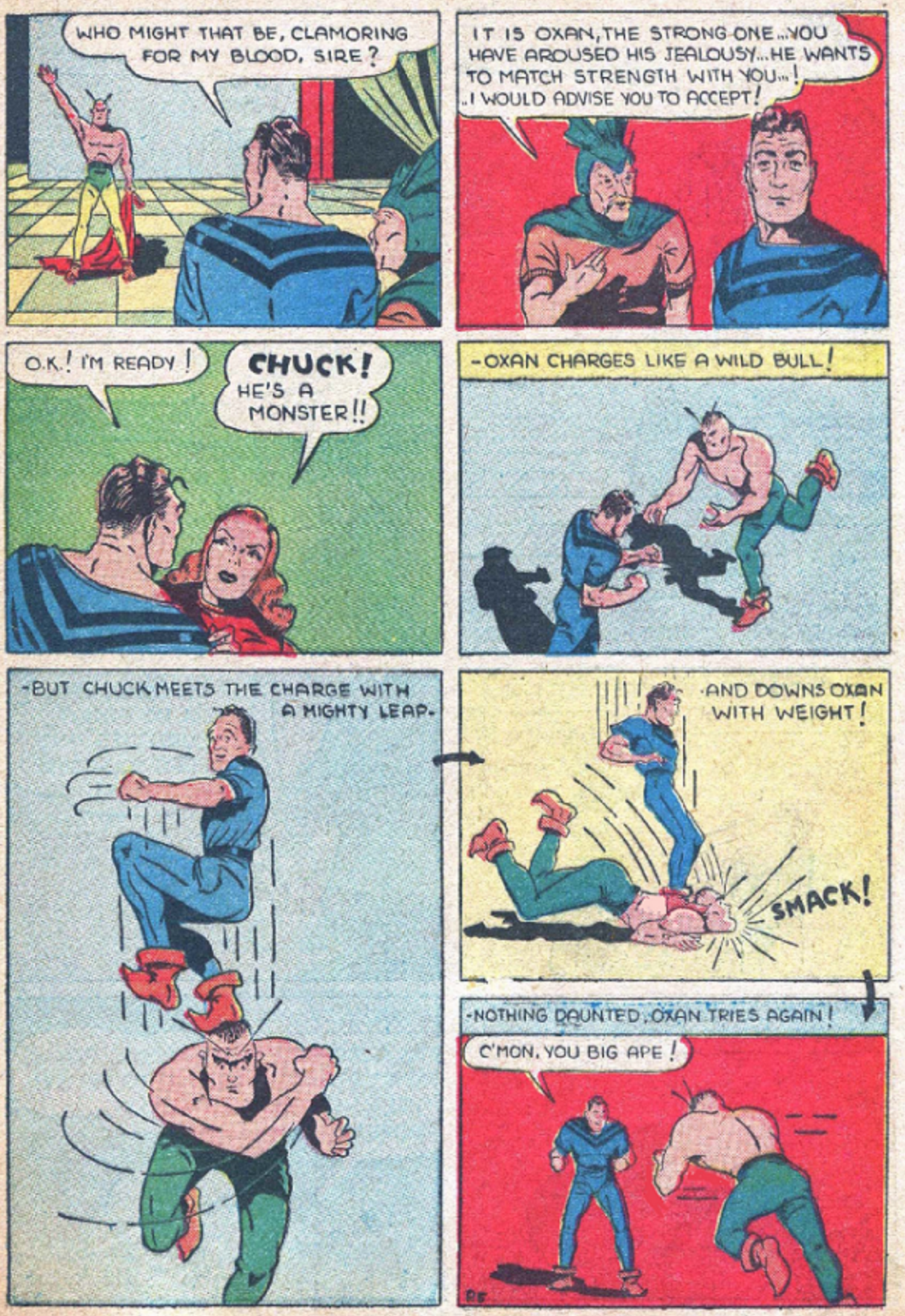
THE TWO ADVENTURERS FROM THE WORLD ABOVE THEM ARE TAKEN TO THE ROYAL CHAMBERS OF *KUSTAN, THE HIGHEST ONE!*

P1

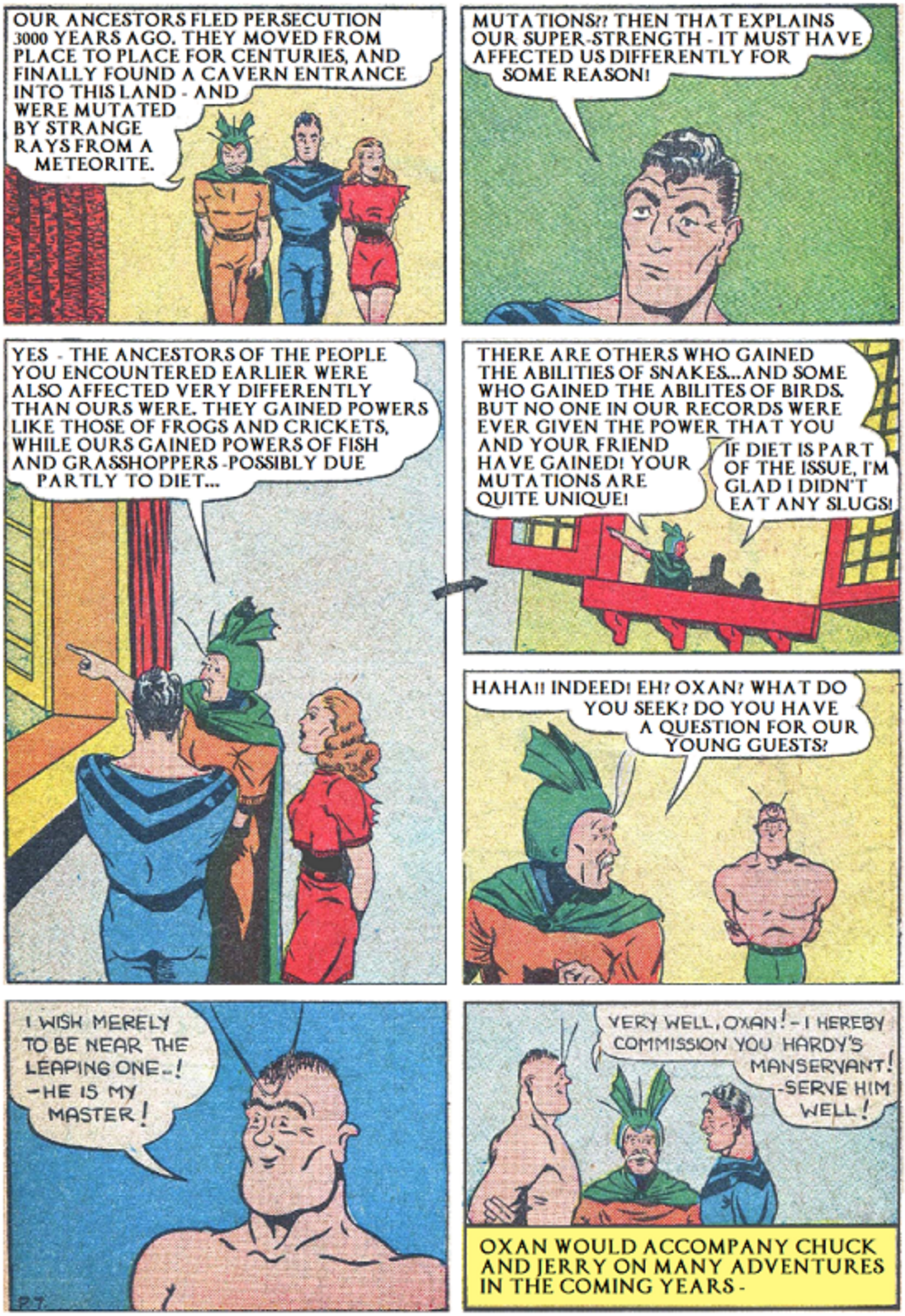

—DOWN A LONG CORRIDOR..
..AT THE END OF WHICH THEY ARE AWAITED BY KUSTAN, THE HIGHEST ONE, AND HIS COUNCIL!
KUSTAN, FROM HIS SHELL-THRONE, SMILES AND GREETS HIS STRANGE VISITORS!
SORRY, IT'S NO USE!...WE JUST DON'T SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE!!
KUSTAN CONFERS WITH AN AGED MAN AT HIS SIDE!..HE IS MISTOM, THE TEACHER!
MISTOM THEN LEADS CHUCK AND JERRY TO HIS PRIVATE QUARTERS IN A WING OF THE HUGE CASTLE!
BOOKS!—AND RESEARCH EQUIPMENT!
...THIS OLD GENT MUST BE A PROFESSOR!!

MISTOM INDICATES THAT THEY MAKE THEMSELVES COMFORTABLE!
I WONDER IF WE'RE TO STAY HERE LONG.....NOT BAD QUARTERS..... SAY!! — I'LL BET THIS OLD FELLOW IS GOING TO TEACH US HIS LANGUAGE!
CHUCK'S HUNCH PROVES CORRECT — ....THE DAYS PASS SWIFTLY AS THEY MASTER THE AQUATANIAN TONGUE!
MISTOM, YOU ARE INDEED A LEARNED TEACHER!
THERE ARE MANY THINGS I WISH TO ASK!
-AND YOU ARE APT PUPILS!
THE FOLLOWING DAY CHUCK AND JERRY ARE AGAIN TAKEN BEFORE KUSTAN AND HIS ROYAL COUNCIL!
PATIENCE, LAD! — I AM ORDERED ONLY TO TEACH YOU THE LANGUAGE!.... YOUR QUESTIONS WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL YOUR AUDIENCE BEFORE KUSTAN ON THE MORROW!
P3

SIRE, LET ME FIRST EXPRESS GRATITUDE FOR SAVING OUR LIVES!
I AM GLAD WE WERE ABLE TO DO SO! ..THERE ARE DOUBTLESS MANY QUESTIONS IN YOUR MIND, AS THERE ARE IN MINE - ..BUT FIRST, I WISH TO MAKE A REQUEST!
MY PATROL REPORTED THAT YOU AND THE FAIR-HAIRED FEMALE WERE CAPABLE OF UNUSUAL FEATS, HAD SUPER STRENGTH - AND THE ABILITY TO LEAP FAR THROUGH THE AIR! - WOULD YOU GIVE US A DEMONSTRATION?
BEFORE THE AMAZED GAZE OF THE COUNCIL, CHUCK AND JERRY LEAP THE LENGTH OF THE LONG TABLE!
FAITH, MY CAPTAIN! - YOU SPOKE TRUTHFULLY!!.....THEY FLY LIKE WINGED CREATURES!
SUDDENLY, A HUGE AQUATANIAN DROPS TO THE CENTER OF THE COURT FROM THE GALLERY ABOVE!
I WISH COMBAT WITH THE LEAPING ONE!
P4


WHO MIGHT THAT BE, CLAMORING FOR MY BLOOD, SIRE?
IT IS OXAN, THE STRONG ONE...YOU HAVE AROUSED HIS JEALOUSY...HE WANTS TO MATCH STRENGTH WITH YOU...! ..I WOULD ADVISE YOU TO ACCEPT!
O.K.! I'M READY!
CHUCK! HE'S A MONSTER!!
-OXAN CHARGES LIKE A WILD BULL!
-BUT CHUCK MEETS THE CHARGE WITH A MIGHTY LEAP-
-AND DOWNS OXAN WITH WEIGHT!
SMACK!
-NOTHING DAUNTED, OXAN TRIES AGAIN!
C'MON, YOU BIG APE!

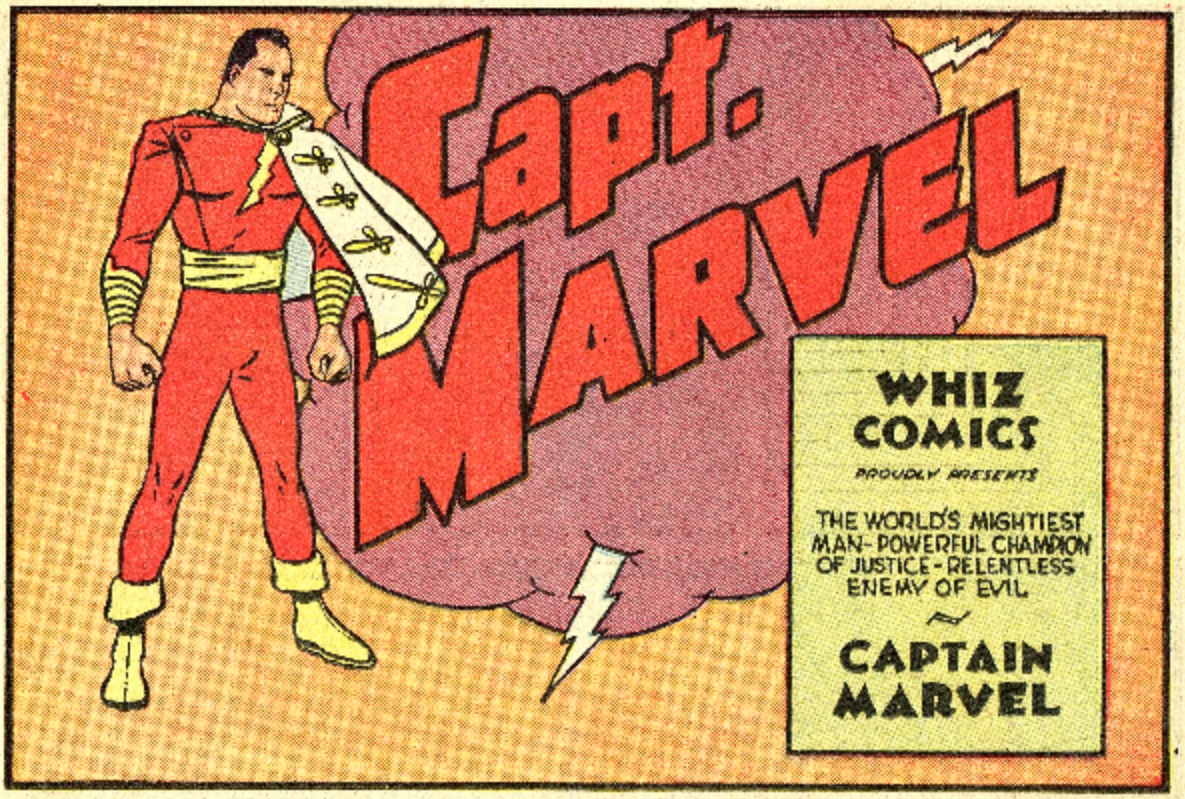
OXAN IS LIKE A BABY IN THE ARMS OF THE SURFACE MAN!
-CHUCK TOSSES THE HUGE OXAN UP INTO THE GALLERY, FROM WHENCE HE CAME!
STOP!- OXAN, YOU ARE A BESTED MAN!
HARDY, YOU ARE A VALUABLE ASSET TO MY KINGDOM! - WELCOME!
NOW COME, LAD, TELL US ABOUT YOURSELVES, AND WHERE YOU COME FROM!
CHUCK TELLS HIS STORY TO THE SPELLBOUND COUNCIL!
MISTOM SPEAKS!
'TIS A STRANGE TALE YOU TELL... BUT WE HAVE OFTEN HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THERE WAS ANOTHER WORLD ABOVE US!
P6

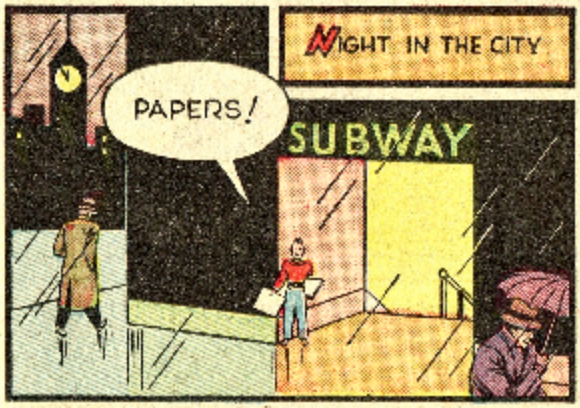

OUR ANCESTORS FLED PERSECUTION 3000 YEARS AGO. THEY MOVED FROM PLACE TO PLACE FOR CENTURIES, AND FINALLY FOUND A CAVERN ENTRANCE INTO THIS LAND - AND WERE MUTATED BY STRANGE RAYS FROM A METEORITE.
MUTATIONS?! THEN THAT EXPLAINS OUR SUPER-STRENGTH - IT MUST HAVE AFFECTED US DIFFERENTLY FOR SOME REASON!
YES - THE ANCESTORS OF THE PEOPLE YOU ENCOUNTERED EARLIER WERE ALSO AFFECTED VERY DIFFERENTLY THAN OURS WERE. THEY GAINED POWERS LIKE THOSE OF FROGS AND CRICKETS, WHILE OURS GAINED POWERS OF FISH AND GRASSHOPPERS -POSSIBLY DUE PARTLY TO DIET...
THERE ARE OTHERS WHO GAINED THE ABILITIES OF SNAKES...AND SOME WHO GAINED THE ABILITES OF BIRDS. BUT NO ONE IN OUR RECORDS WERE EVER GIVEN THE POWER THAT YOU AND YOUR FRIEND HAVE GAINED! YOUR MUTATIONS ARE QUITE UNIQUE!
IF DIET IS PART OF THE ISSUE, I'M GLAD I DIDN'T EAT ANY SLUGS!
HAHA!! INDEED! EH? OXAN? WHAT DO YOU SEEK? DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR OUR YOUNG GUESTS?
I WISH MERELY TO BE NEAR THE LEAPING ONE..! -HE IS MY MASTER!
P.T.
VERY WELL, OXAN! - I HEREBY COMMISSION YOU HARDY'S MANSERVANT! -SERVE HIM WELL!
OXAN WOULD ACCOMPANY CHUCK AND JERRY ON MANY ADVENTURES IN THE COMING YEARS -

THE DREAM MATRIX FILES

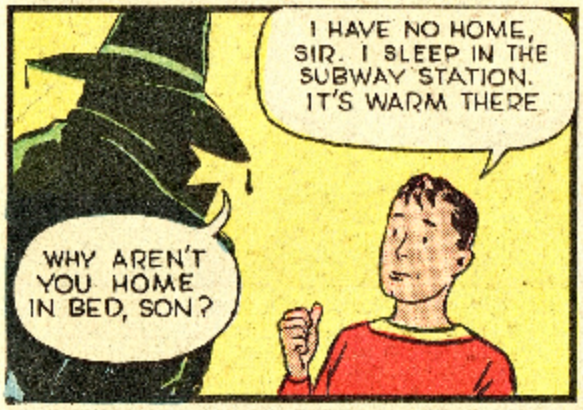
THE MARVEL FAMILY

FILE DATES: 4/3/41 - 7/20/48
LOCATION: PLANET MIRUS
CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

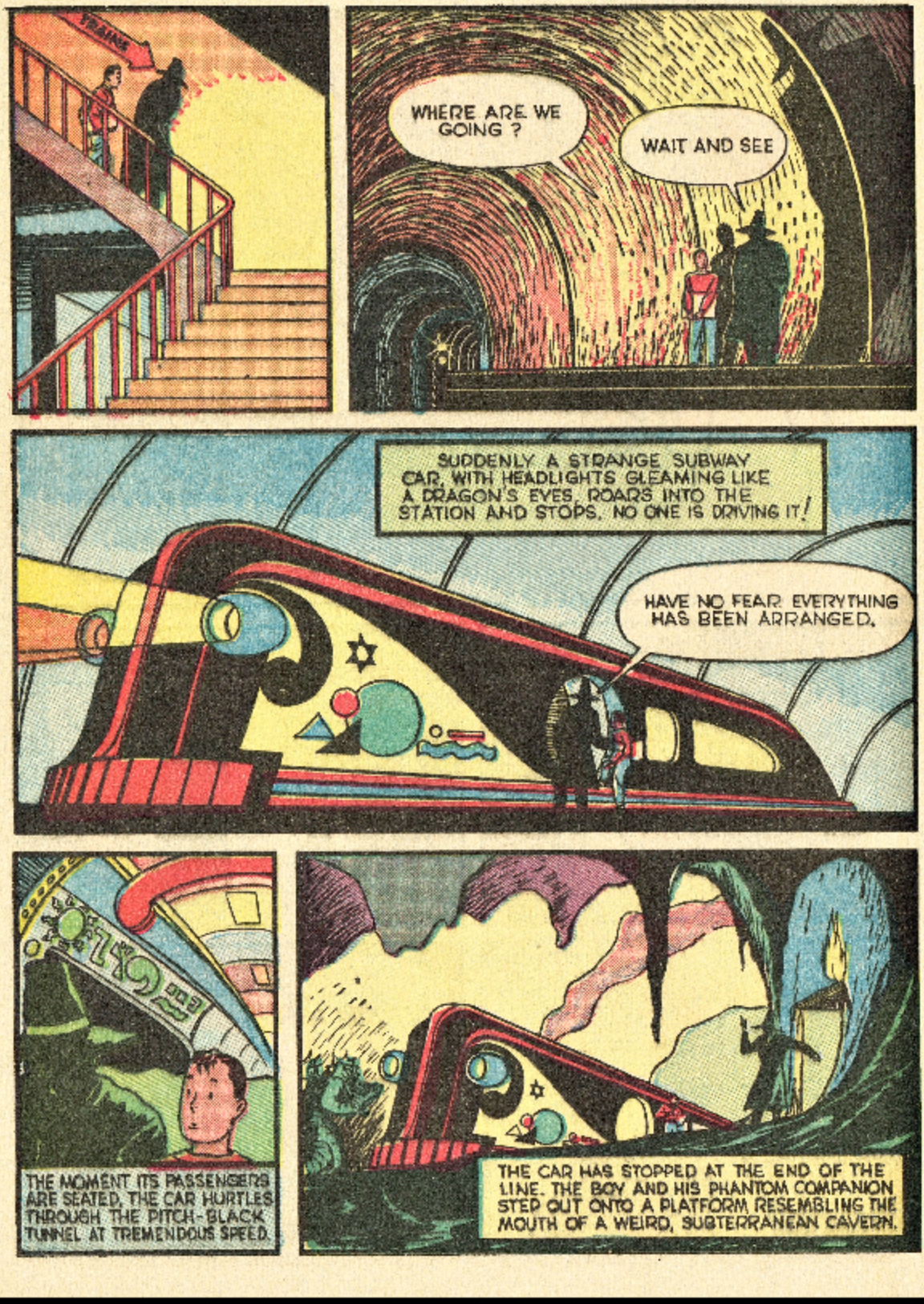

Capt. MARVEL
WHIZ COMICS
PROUDLY PRESENTS
THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MAN - POWERFUL CHAMPION OF JUSTICE - RELENTLESS ENEMY OF EVIL
CAPTAIN MARVEL


NIGHT IN THE CITY
PAPERS!
SUBWAY

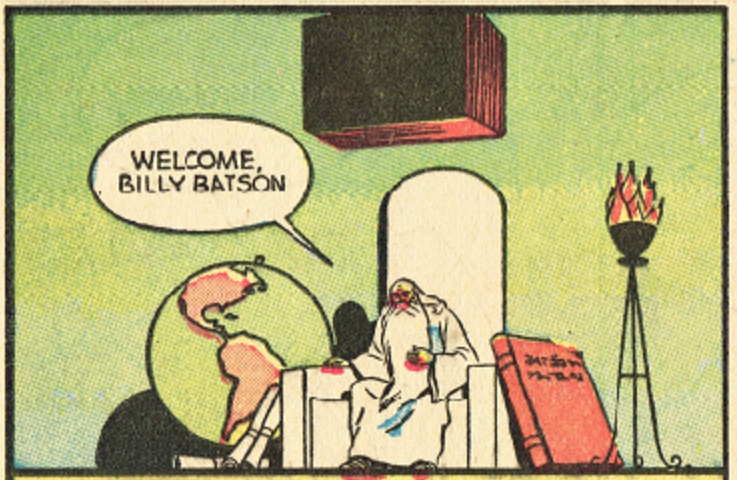
PAPER, SIR?


I HAVE NO HOME, SIR. I SLEEP IN THE SUBWAY STATION. IT'S WARM THERE
WHY AREN'T YOU HOME IN BED, SON?

FOLLOW ME!

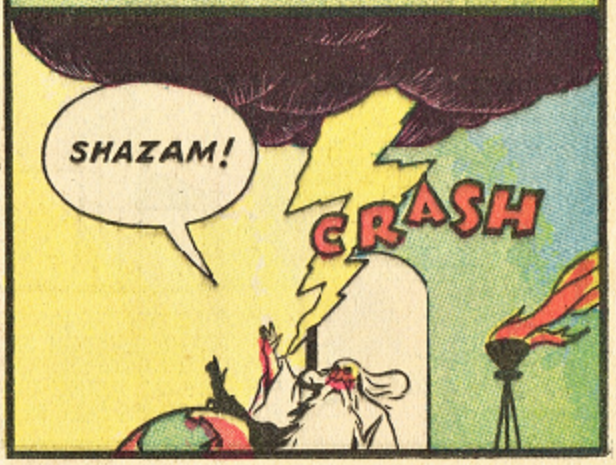

WHERE ARE WE GOING ?
WAIT AND SEE
SUDDENLY A STRANGE SUBWAY CAR, WITH HEADLIGHTS GLEAMING LIKE A DRAGON'S EYES, ROARS INTO THE STATION AND STOPS. NO ONE IS DRIVING IT!
HAVE NO FEAR. EVERYTHING HAS BEEN ARRANGED.
THE MOMENT ITS PASSENGERS ARE SEATED, THE CAR HURTLES THROUGH THE PITCH-BLACK TUNNEL AT TREMENDOUS SPEED.
THE CAR HAS STOPPED AT THE END OF THE LINE. THE BOY AND HIS PHANTOM COMPANION STEP OUT ONTO A PLATFORM RESEMBLING THE MOUTH OF A WEIRD, SUBTERRANEAN CAVERN.

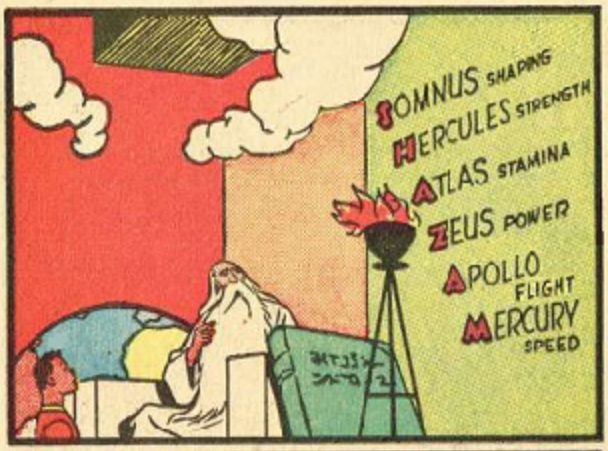
MUSTERING HIS COURAGE THE BOY ENTERS AN ANCIENT UNDERGROUND HALL, CARVED OUT OF SOLID ROCK, GROTESQUELY LIGHTED BY FLARING TORCHES.



AN OLD, OLD MAN, SITTING ON A MARBLE THRONE AT THE FAR END OF THE CAVERN, SPEAKS AS THEY APPROACH.

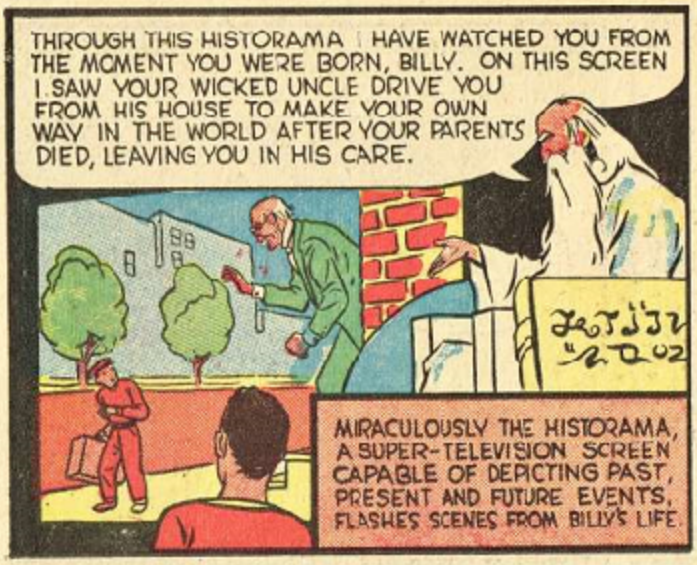
A HUGE BLACK CLOUD-A BLINDING LIGHTNING FLASH-A DEAFENING PEAL OF THUNDER FORM OUT OF NOWHERE AS THE OLD MAN SPEAKS HIS NAME —

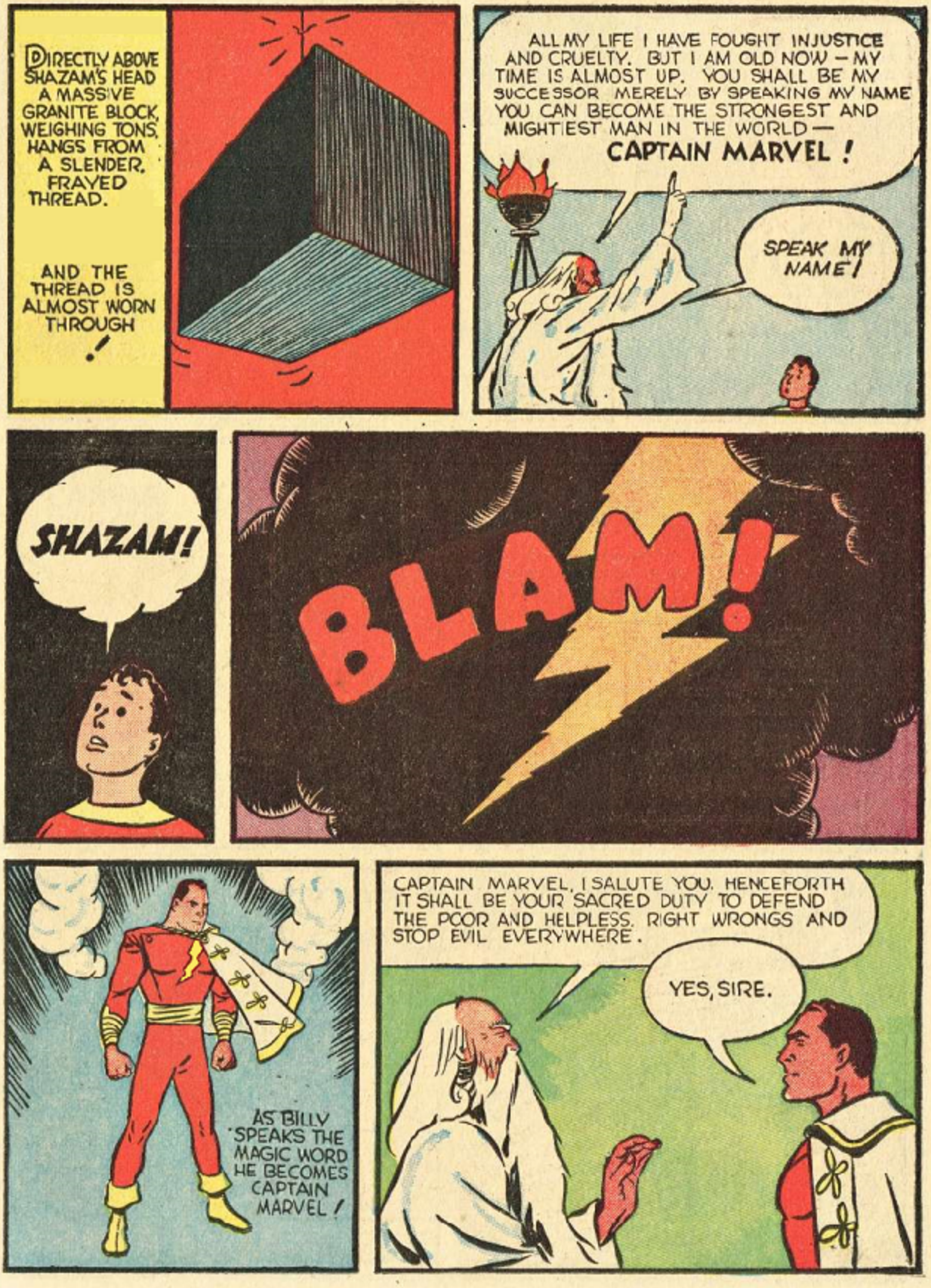




SIMULTANEOUSLY A CURIOUS INSCRIPTION, EXPLAINING SHAZAM'S NAME, APPEARS MAGICALLY ON THE WALL

FOR 3,000 YEARS I HAVE USED THE WISDOM, STRENGTH, STAMINA, POWER, COURAGE, AND SPEED THE LORD HAS GIVEN ME TO BATTLE THE FORCES OF EVIL WHICH EVERY DAY THREATEN TO EXTINGUISH MAN FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH.
ONCE AGAIN SHAZAM SPEAKS!


THROUGH THIS HISTORAMA I HAVE WATCHED YOU FROM THE MOMENT YOU WERE BORN, BILLY. ON THIS SCREEN I SAW YOUR WICKED UNCLE DRIVE YOU FROM HIS HOUSE TO MAKE YOUR OWN WAY IN THE WORLD AFTER YOUR PARENTS DIED, LEAVING YOU IN HIS CARE.
MIRACULOUSLY THE HISTORAMA, A SUPER-TELEVISION SCREEN CAPABLE OF DEPICTING PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE EVENTS, FLASHES SCENES FROM BILLY'S LIFE.


DIRECTLY ABOVE SHAZAM'S HEAD A MASSIVE GRANITE BLOCK, WEIGHING TONS, HANGS FROM A SLENDER, FRAYED THREAD.
AND THE THREAD IS ALMOST WORN THROUGH !
ALL MY LIFE I HAVE FOUGHT INJUSTICE AND CRUELTY. BUT I AM OLD NOW — MY TIME IS ALMOST UP. YOU SHALL BE MY SUCCESSOR MERELY BY SPEAKING MY NAME YOU CAN BECOME THE STRONGEST AND MIGHTIEST MAN IN THE WORLD — CAPTAIN MARVEL !
SPEAK MY NAME!
SHAZAM!
BLAM!
AS BILLY SPEAKS THE MAGIC WORD HE BECOMES CAPTAIN MARVEL !
CAPTAIN MARVEL, I SALUTE YOU. HENCEFORTH IT SHALL BE YOUR SACRED DUTY TO DEFEND THE POOR AND HELPLESS, RIGHT WRONGS AND STOP EVIL EVERYWHERE.
YES, SIRE.

TO BECOME BILLY BATSON AGAIN, ALSO SPEAK MY NAME. AND NOW I MUST GO, CAPTAIN MARVEL. SPEAK MY NAME!
SHAZAM
CRASH
THROUGH THE BLINDING FLASH OF THE LIGHTNING BOLT, CAPTAIN MARVEL SEES THE GRANITE BLOCK FALLING ON SHAZAM.
A MOMENT LATER BILLY FINDS HIMSELF STANDING AT HIS OLD POST. SHAZAM CAPTAIN MARVEL AND THE WEIRD UNDERGROUND CAVERN HAVE VANISHED.
SUBWAY
IT ALL SEEMS LIKE A DREAM.
NEXT MORNING
SENSATIONAL NEWS ALMOST MAKES BILLY FORGET HIS NIGHT'S ADVENTURE -
EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!
HERALD EXTRA
MANIAC SCIENTIST THREATENS U.S. RADIO SYSTEM; DEMANDS $50,000,000
AIR OFFICIALS ALARMED
GIMME A PAPER KID.
WANTA READ ABOUT THE BOSS EH?
SHUT UP, YOU FOOL. COME ON, LET'S GET GOING.
BILLY OVERHEARS A STRANGE CONVERSATION.

I WONDER WHAT THEY MEANT? GEE! MAYBE "THE BOSS" IS THE PHANTOM SCIENTIST! I'D BETTER FOLLOW THEM.
TRAILING THE TWO MEN, BILLY WATCHES THEM ENTER THE SWANKY SKYTOWER APARTMENTS.
GO ON, KID, BEAT IT! YOU CAN'T SELL NEWSPAPERS IN HERE.
BUT ⊢
BILLY TRIES TO FOLLOW THEM, BUT THE DOORMAN STOPS HIM.
I'VE GOT TO SEE MR. MORRIS. IT'S IMPORTANT.
YOU CAN'T SEE HIM. GET OUT OR I'LL THROW YOU OUT!
UNABLE TO TRAIL THE STRANGE MEN TO THEIR APARTMENT, BILLY CALLS ON STERLING MORRIS, RADIO HEAD, TO TELL HIM WHAT HE HAS DISCOVERED.
HEY, YOU! STOP!
BEFORE THE RECEPTIONIST CAN STOP HIM, BILLY RUNS INTO PRESIDENT MORRIS'S OFFICE.
I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE PHANTOM SCIENTIST, MR. MORRIS.
IT'S ALL RIGHT HAMMOND, LET THE BOY STAY. WELL, SON, WHAT IS IT?

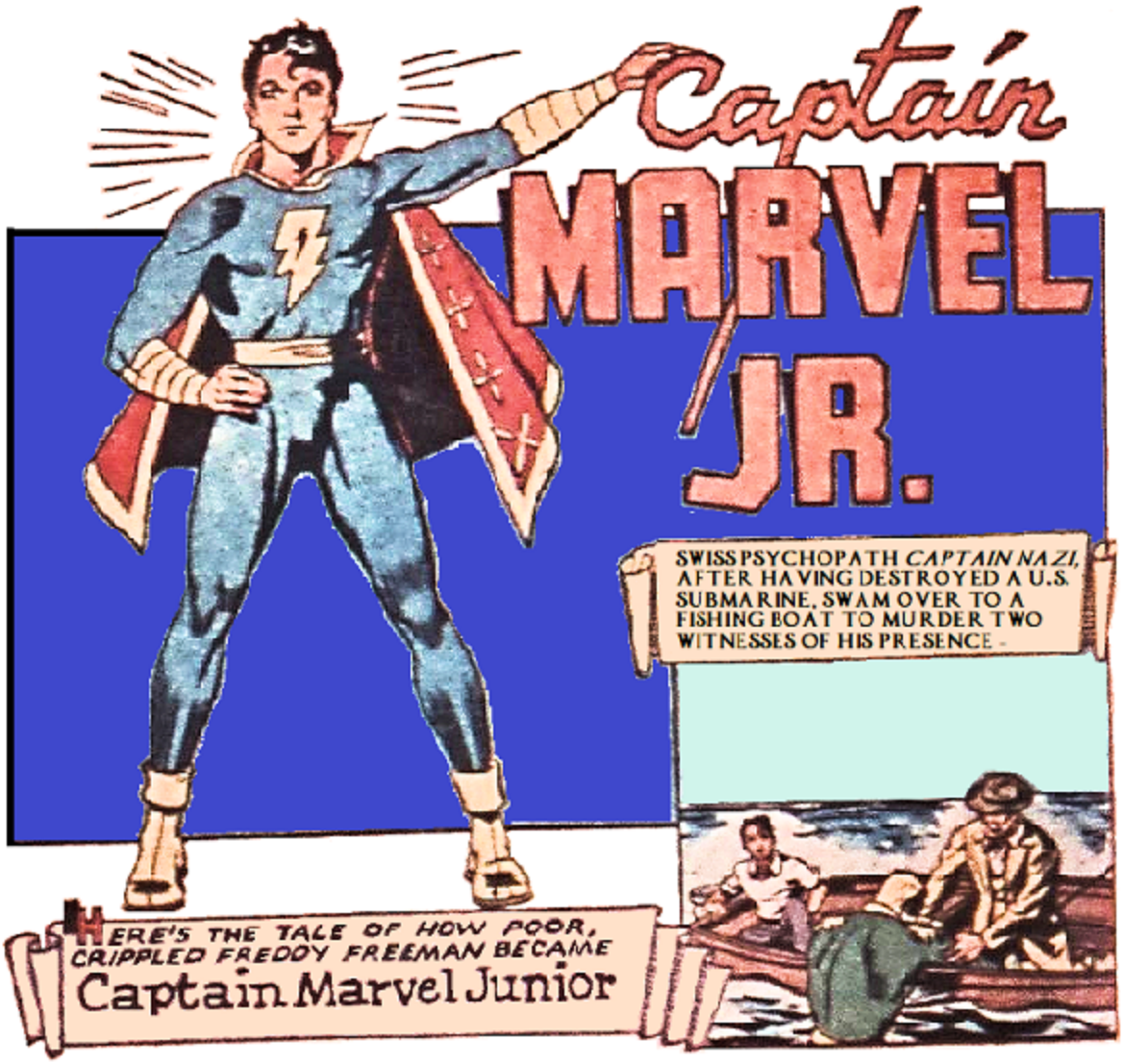
– AND I FOLLOWED THEM TO THE SKYTOWER APARTMENTS. I'LL BET THEY WERE GOING TO SEE THE PHANTOM!
THE SKYTOWER APARTMENTS? NONSENSE, BOY! WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME HE LIVES AT CITY HALL? OR IN THE CAPITOL AT WASHINGTON?
EXCITEDLY BILLY TELLS MR. MORRIS HOW HE TRAILED THE SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING STRANGERS.
THIS IS A SERIOUS MATTER, BOY. I'M IN NO MOOD FOR JOKING ABOUT IT. YOU'D BETTER GO BEFORE I LOSE MY TEMPER.
BUT THE RADIO OFFICIAL RIDICULES HIS SUSPICIONS
ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO. BUT IF I FIND THE PHANTOM'S LABORATORY, WILL YOU GIVE ME A JOB AS A RADIO ANNOUNCER?
A JOB? I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT IF YOU FIND THIS MADMAN. AND NOW GET OUT. I CAN'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME LISTENING TO NONSENSE.
THAT NIGHT
SKYTOWER
HOW AM I GOING TO GET INTO THE APARTMENT HOUSE WITHOUT BEING SEEN? MM-M, MAYBE IF I GO UP IN THE TOWER OF THAT OFFICE BUILDING OVER THERE —
THE OFFICE BUILDING ELEVATOR QUICKLY TAKES BILLY TO THE OBSERVATION TOWER.
THIS IS A JOB FOR CAPTAIN MARVEL!
SHAZAM!
HE SPEAKS THE MAGIC WORD.

BOOM
MIRACULOUSLY, BILLY HAS BECOME CAPTAIN MARVEL!
WITH A MIGHTY LEAP, CAPTAIN MARVEL EASILY SPANS THE YAWNING CHASM BETWEEN THE BUILDINGS.
WHAT LUCK! THIS MUST BE THE PHANTOM'S LABORATORY.
LANDING ON THE SKYTOWER APARTMENT ROOF, HE PEERS THROUGH A PENTHOUSE WINDOW.
MASTER SIVANA, ARE YOU THERE?
AS CAPTAIN MARVEL WATCHES, ONE OF THE MEN PULLS A DRAW CURTAIN, REVEALING A TELE-VISION SCREEN.
THE FOOLS! THEY WOULDN'T PAY WHAT I DEMANDED! AT MIDNIGHT WE WILL DRIVE EVERY RADIO STATION FROM THE AIR — FOREVER!
SUDDENLY ON THE TELEVISION SCREEN APPEARS THE FACE OF SIVANA, MAD SCIENTIST, WHO HAS THREATENED TO DESTROY RADIO UNLESS HE IS PAID $50,000,000!
IN A FEW SECONDS SIVANA'S FIENDISH RADIO-SILENCER WILL DRIVE EVERY BROADCASTING STATION FROM THE AIRLANES — UNLESS CAPTAIN MARVEL CAN STOP HIM!
CRASHING THROUGH THE WINDOW, MARVEL RACES TOWARD THE DIABOLICAL MACHINE.

WITH NOT A SECOND TO SPARE, HE SMASHES THE RADIO-SILENCER INTO SMITHEREENS.
THE OTHER MAN RACES FOR THE PRIVATE ELEVATOR -
WHAAM
- AND SLAMS THE DOOR BEHIND HIM.
FLEXING HIS POWERFUL MUSCLES MARVEL PULLS THE DOOR OPEN
- GRIPS THE ELEVATOR CABLE IN STEEL-LIKE HANDS-
POP
- AND HAULS THE CAR BACK TO THE PENTHOUSE.

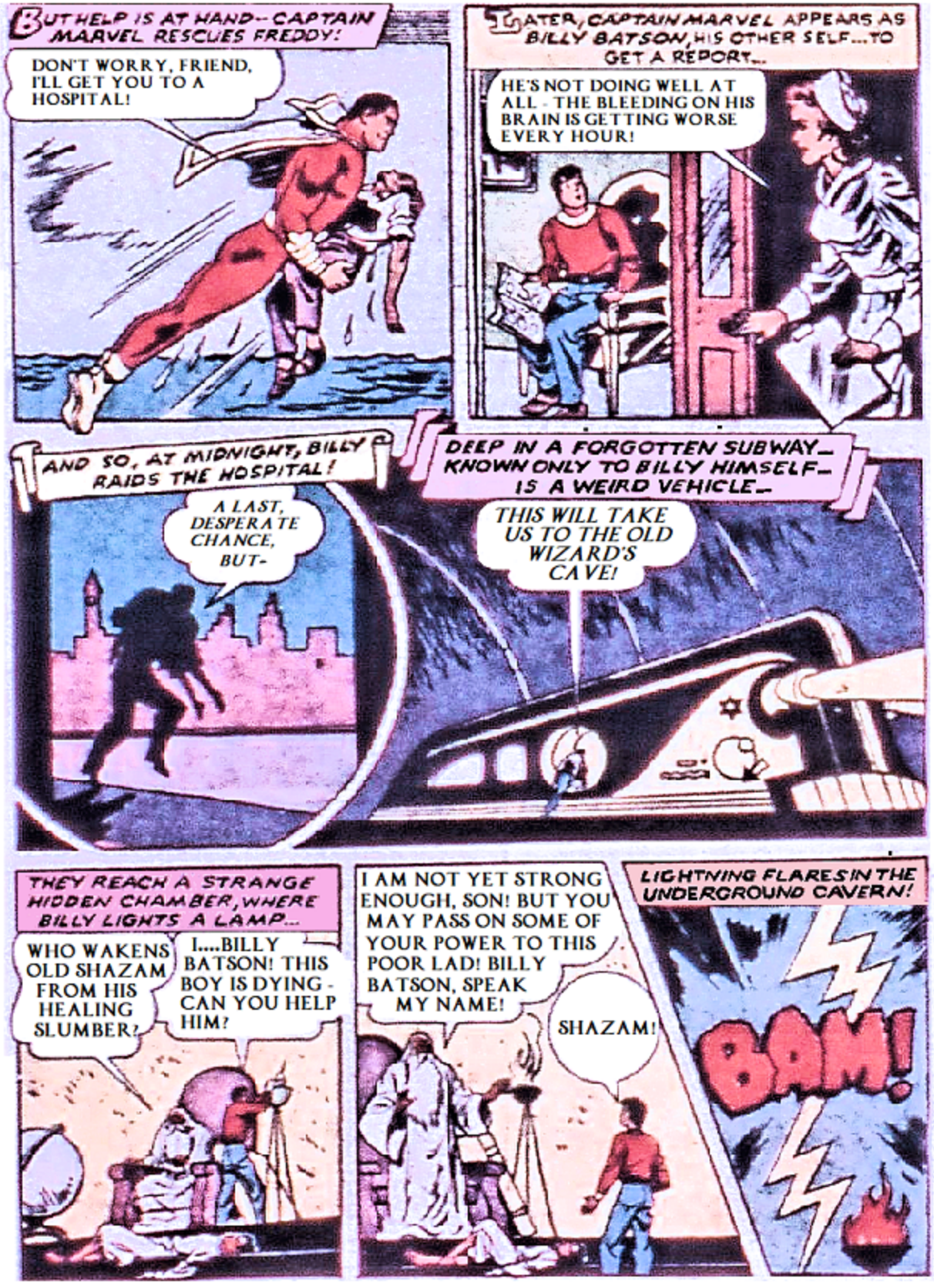
IN A MOMENT BOTH OF SIVANA'S TERRIFIED ASSISTANTS ARE SECURELY BOUND WITH TUBING RIPPED FROM THE RADIO-SILENCER.
W-WHO ARE Y-Y-YOU ?
— I AM CAPTAIN MARVEL, "GENTLEMEN"!
WELL, SIVANA, THAT'S THE END OF YOUR RADIO-SILENCER.
BUT NOT THE END OF ME! WE WILL MEET AGAIN - CAPTAIN MARVEL!
HIS WORK COMPLETED, MARVEL CONFRONTS THE SCHEMING SCIENTIST, WHO HAS WATCHED EVERYTHING THROUGH THE TELEVISION SCREEN.
YES, SIVANA, WE WILL MEET AGAIN. AND WHEN WE DO YOU WILL BE BEHIND PRISON WALLS —
CRASH
— RIGHT WHERE YOU BELONG!
WELL, I GUESS THAT OUGHT TO HOLD OUR FRIEND SIVANA FOR AWHILE. AND NOW—
SHAZAM!
CAPTAIN MARVEL SPEAKS THE MAGIC WORD.

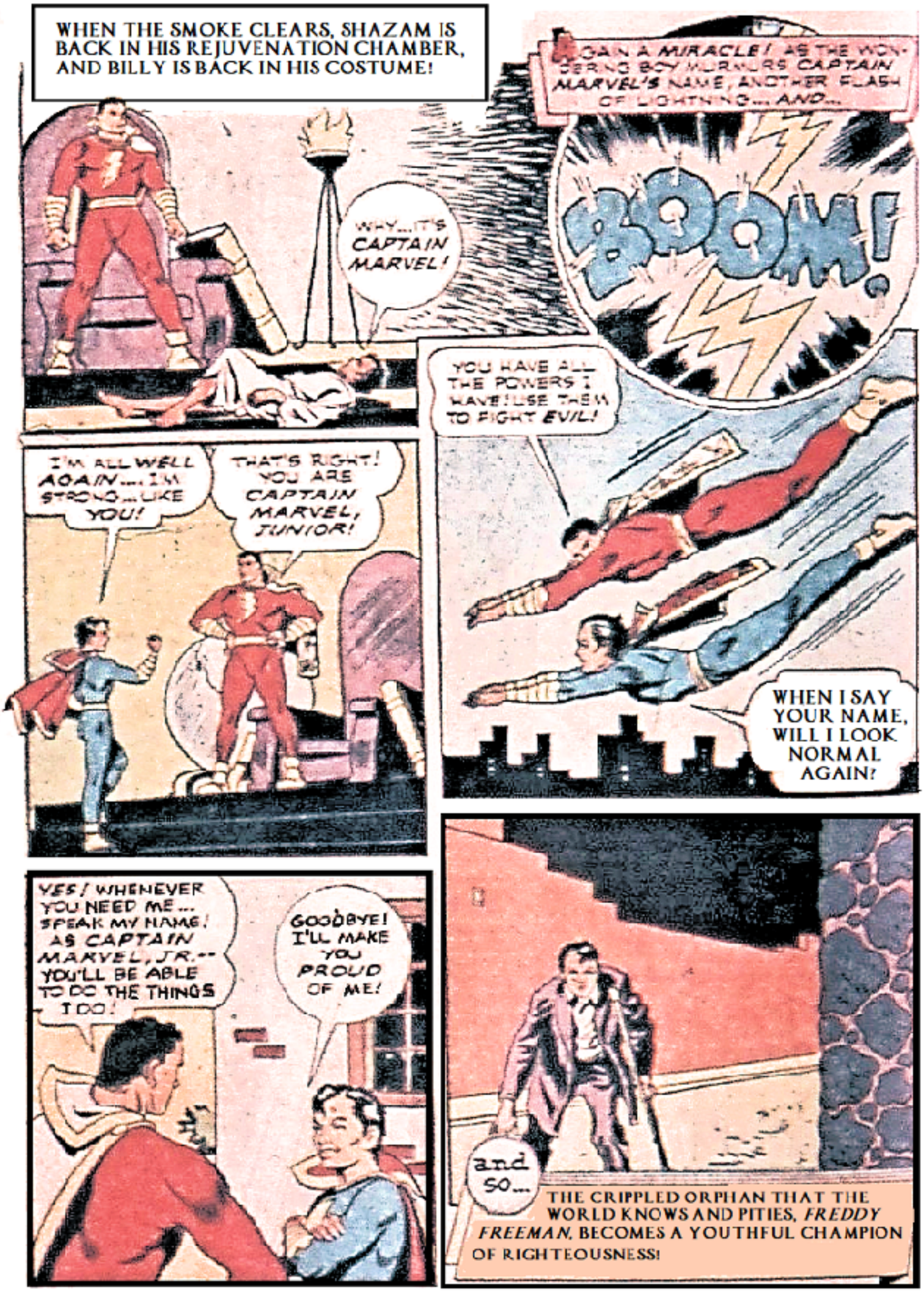
BOOOOOM!
LIGHTNING SPLITS THE AIR.
MR. MORRIS? THIS IS BILLY BATSON. COME RIGHT OVER TO THE SKYTOWER APARTMENT PENTHOUSE. I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU.
BILLY TELEPHONES THE RADIO COMPANY PRESIDENT.
A HALF HOUR LATER BILLY TELLS MR. MORRIS EVERYTHING - EXCEPT ABOUT CAPTAIN MARVEL.
IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE THAT YOU DID THIS ALL BY YOURSELF.
-AND THAT'S WHAT'S LEFT OF THE RADIO-SILENCER, SIR.
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO PROMISE YOU WON'T TELL ANYBODY THAT I SMASHED THE RADIO SILENCER. I'VE STILL GOT TO CAPTURE SIVANA AND IT WILL BE EASIER IF NOBODY KNOWS WHO I AM. SO NOW I'LL GET OUT OF HERE AND YOU CAN CALL THE POLICE.
VERY WELL, SON, I PROMISE.
BY THE WAY, MR. MORRIS, HOW ABOUT THAT JOB YOU PROMISED ME? DO I GET IT?
THE JOB IS YOURS! FROM NOW ON YOU ARE BILLY BATSON - RADIO REPORTER!


Captain
MARVEL
JR.
SWISS PSYCHOPATH CAPTAIN NAZI, AFTER HAVING DESTROYED A U.S. SUBMARINE, SWAM OVER TO A FISHING BOAT TO MURDER TWO WITNESSES OF HIS PRESENCE -
HERE'S THE TALE OF HOW POOR, CRIPPLED FREDDY FREEMAN BECAME
Captain Marvel Junior

THUS I REPAY YOUR SOFT-HEARTEDNESS!!
YOU KILLED MY GRANDPA, YOU MONSTER!!!

AND THEN CAPTAIN NAZI SAILED AWAY IN THE CAPTURED SKIFF, LEAVING FREDDY INJURED AND DROWNING!!!
OUT OF MY WAY, STRIPLING!
WHAM

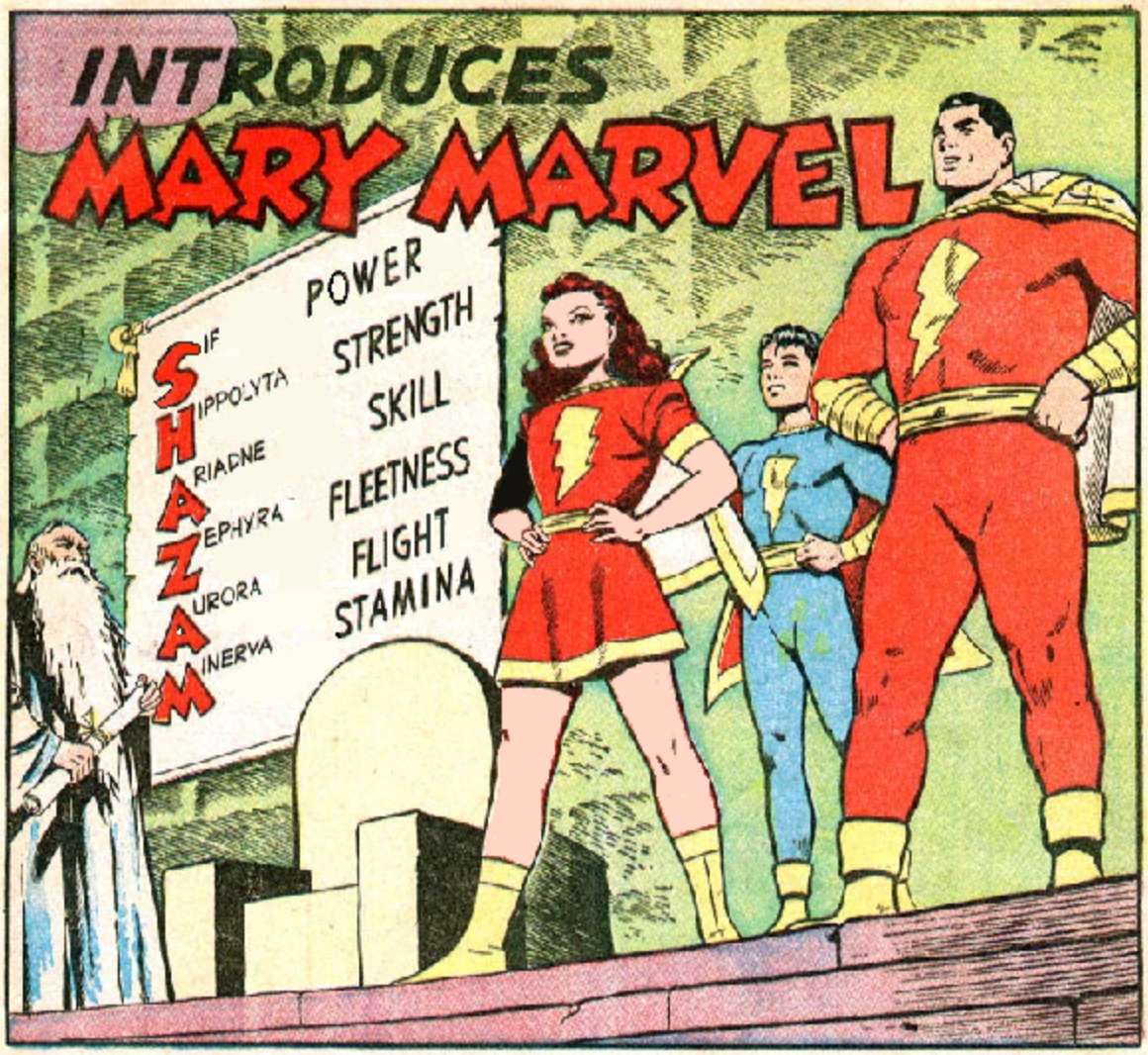

BUT HELP IS AT HAND--CAPTAIN MARVEL RESCUES FREDDY!
DON'T WORRY, FRIEND, I'LL GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL!
LATER, CAPTAIN MARVEL APPEARS AS BILLY BATSON, HIS OTHER SELF...TO GET A REPORT...
HE'S NOT DOING WELL AT ALL - THE BLEEDING ON HIS BRAIN IS GETTING WORSE EVERY HOUR!
AND SO, AT MIDNIGHT, BILLY RAIDS THE HOSPITAL!
A LAST, DESPERATE CHANCE, BUT-
DEEP IN A FORGOTTEN SUBWAY--KNOWN ONLY TO BILLY HIMSELF--IS A WEIRD VEHICLE--
THIS WILL TAKE US TO THE OLD WIZARD'S CAVE!
THEY REACH A STRANGE HIDDEN CHAMBER, WHERE BILLY LIGHTS A LAMP...
WHO WAKENS OLD SHAZAM FROM HIS HEALING SLUMBER?
I....BILLY BATSON! THIS BOY IS DYING - CAN YOU HELP HIM?
I AM NOT YET STRONG ENOUGH, SON! BUT YOU MAY PASS ON SOME OF YOUR POWER TO THIS POOR LAD! BILLY BATSON, SPEAK MY NAME!
SHAZAM!
LIGHTNING FLARES IN THE UNDERGROUND CAVERN!
BAM!


WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS, SHAZAM IS BACK IN HIS REJUVENATION CHAMBER, AND BILLY IS BACK IN HIS COSTUME!
AGAIN A MIRACLE! AS THE WONDERING BOY MURMURS CAPTAIN MARVEL'S NAME, ANOTHER FLASH OF LIGHTNING... AND...
BOOM!
WHY... IT'S CAPTAIN MARVEL!
YOU HAVE ALL THE POWERS I HAVE! USE THEM TO FIGHT EVIL!
I'M ALL WELL AGAIN... I'M STRONG... LIKE YOU!
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU ARE CAPTAIN MARVEL, JUNIOR!
WHEN I SAY YOUR NAME, WILL I LOOK NORMAL AGAIN?
YES! WHENEVER YOU NEED ME... SPEAK MY NAME! AS CAPTAIN MARVEL, JR.-- YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO THE THINGS I DO!
GOODBYE! I'LL MAKE YOU PROUD OF ME!
and so...
THE CRIPPLED ORPHAN THAT THE WORLD KNOWS AND PITIES, FREDDY FREEMAN, BECOMES A YOUTHFUL CHAMPION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!

CAPTAIN MARVEL

FOLKS! HERE'S A BIG SURPRISE!... MEET MY SISTER, MARY! YOU DIDN'T KNOW I HAD A SISTER, DID YOU? WELL, NEITHER DID I! I HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT I WAS AN ORPHAN, WITHOUT A RELATIVE IN THE WORLD BUT NEEDLESS TO SAY, I'M HAPPY AND PROUD TO FIND I HAVE A SISTER. HERE SHE IS, AND I SURE HOPE YOU LIKE HER AS MUCH AS I DO! THIS IS THE STORY OF HOW I FOUND HER...
SHAZAM
SOMNUS SHAPING
HERCULES STRENGTH
ATLAS STAMINA
ZEUS POWER
APOLLO FLIGHT
MERCURY SPEED
AT THE DOOR OF RADIO STATION WHIZ MR. MORRIS AND BILLY GREET THE GUESTS FOR A NEW, SENSATIONAL PROGRAM...
AHEM! I AM PERCY PILL! HAVING THE HIGHEST INTELLIGENCE IN THIS STATE, THE BOARD OF EDUCATON HAS SENT ME TO TAKE PART IN YOUR CONTEST!
WELCOME! I'M BILLY BATSON. THIS IS MR. MORRIS, OWNER OF STATION WHIZ!
HELLO! I'M MARY BROMFIELD, SENT TO REPRESENT THE GIRLS. I'M SO HAPPY TO MEET YOU, BILLY BATSON!
WHAT A NICE GIRL! AND HER PARENTS, ACCORDING TO THE RECORD, ARE IN WHO'S WHO, THE SOCIAL REGISTER AND ALL THAT!
THE FINAL GUEST IS NONE OTHER THAN FREDDY FREEMAN, THE FAMOUS CAPTAIN MARVEL JR!
I'M FREDDY FREEMAN, A NEWSBOY. I GUESS I REPRESENT ALL POOR CHILDREN!
THANKS FREDDY, FOR ANSWERING MY INVITATION TO THIS PROGRAM!

INTRODUCES MARY MARVEL



BILLY BATSON BEGINS HIS GREAT NEW PROGRAM .... THE MENTAL MARVEL QUIZ!

HELLO FOLKS! I HAVE THE GREAT PLEASURE OF INTRODUCING PERCY PILL, FREDDY FREEMAN, AND MARY BROMFIELD... THE MENTAL MARVEL QUIZ KIDS!!

WHEE!

HOORAY!

MY FIRST QUESTION IS FROM TUCKY REED, OF MALVERNE, NEW YORK--- "WHAT IS THE SIZE OF AUSTRALIA?" CAN YOU ANSWER THAT, PERCY PILL?

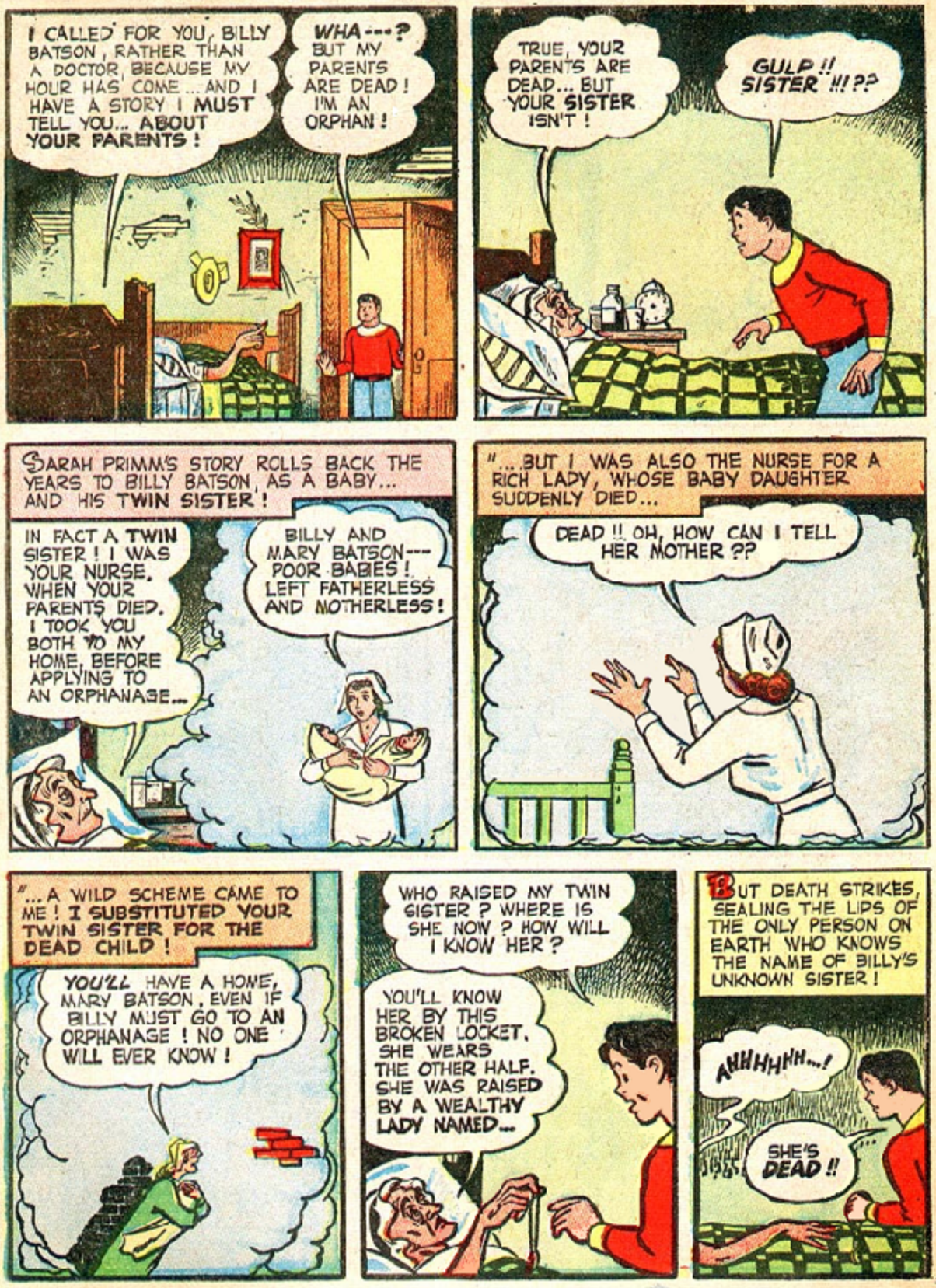
THAT IS ELEMENTARY! AUSTRALIA IS APPROXMATELY THE SIZE OF THE UNITED STATES! AUSTRALIA IS 2,900,000 SQUARE MILES, WHEREAS THE U.S. IS 3,020,000 SQUARE MILES!

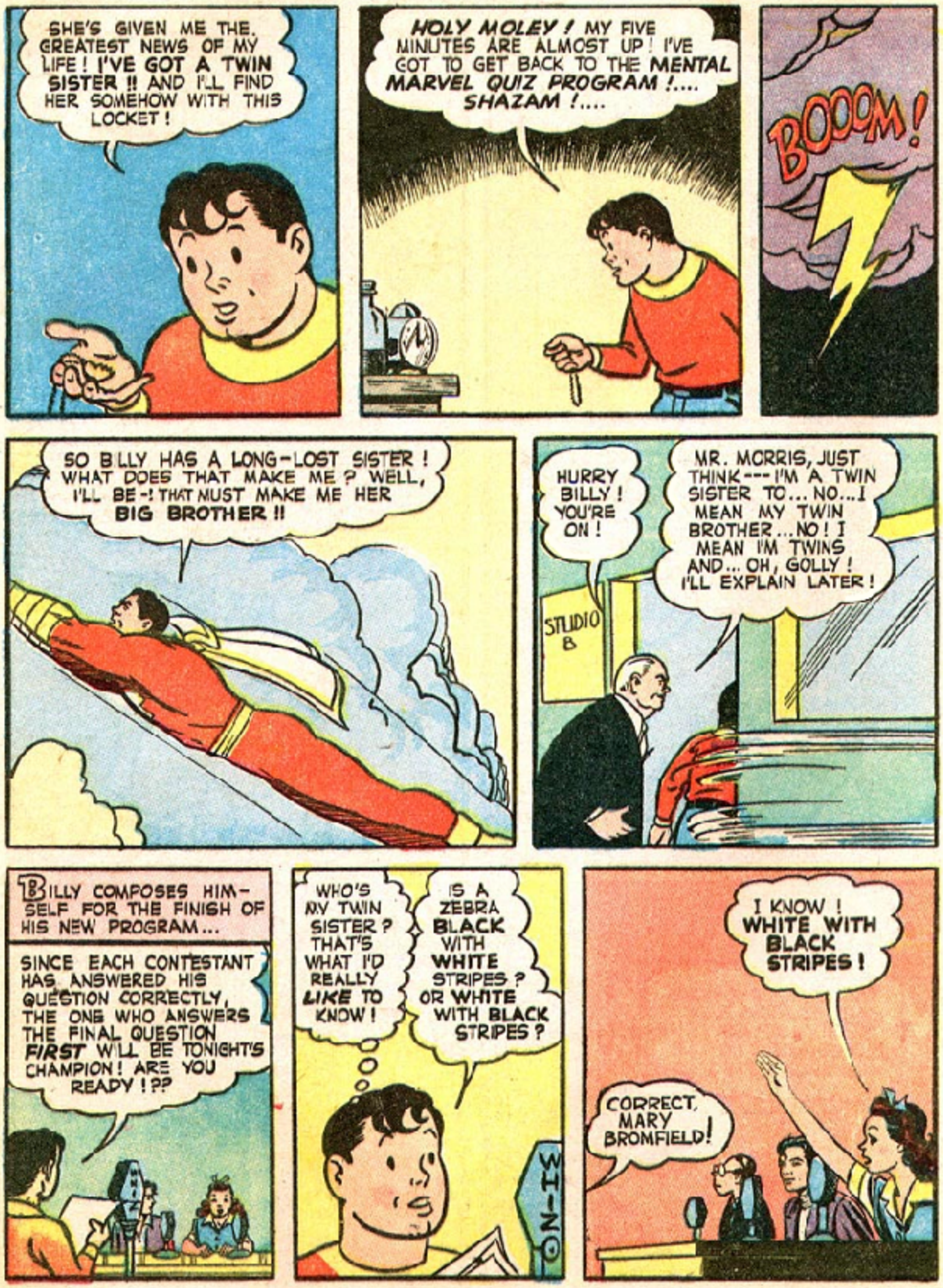
YOUR TURN, FREDDY FREEMAN! QUESTION FROM C. BECK---"WHO IS CAPTAIN MARVEL? (HOLY MOLEY! HOW DID THAT SLIP IN? HOPE FREDDY USES HIS BEAN!

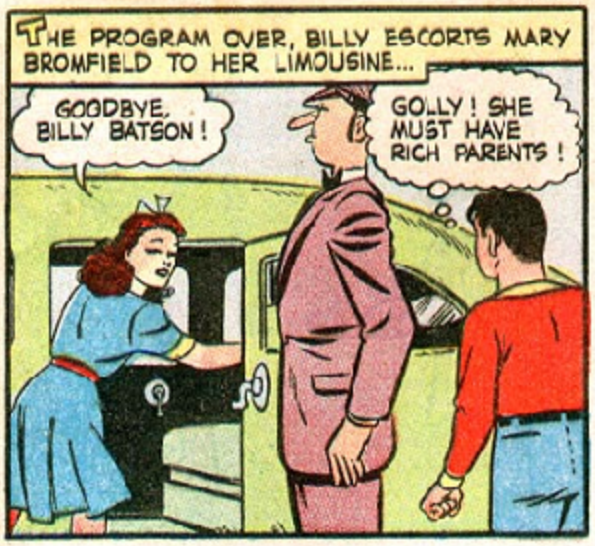
WHY HE'S, ER... HE'S THE WORLD'S MIGHTEST MORTAL!

FREDDY ALONE KNOWS THAT BILLY IS CAPTAIN MARVEL!

BILLY ADDRESSES THE FINAL CONTESTANT...
" WHAT ARE THE MODERN NAMES OF THESE ANCIENT COUNTRIES-- CATHAY, MUSCOVY, PERSIA, AND SIAM ?"
THEY ARE--- CHINA, RUSSIA, IRAN, AND THAILAND!
CORRECT! GOLLY, SHE'S PRETTY! INTELLIGENT TOO! SHE WEARS AN ODD LOCKET-- IT'S BROKEN IN HALF!
AS AN ANNOUNCER TAKES OVER FOR AN ADVERTISING TALK, A MESSAGE ARRIVES FOR BILLY...
HOLY MOLEY!! WHAT'S THIS ?!!
Dear Billy Batson
I am dying
Please come and
see me
This is most
urgent
Sarah Primm
19 Elm St.
BILLY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING ?!! YOU CAN'T LEAVE NOW... YOUR PROGRAM...!!
THE ANNOUNCER WILL BE ON FOR FIVE MINUTES! I'LL BE IN TIME, MR. MORRIS, I PROMISE!
IN A SECLUDED CORNER BILLY WASTES NONE OF HIS PRECIOUS TIME...
WITH ONLY FIVE MINUTES TO SPARE, I'D BETTER USE THE SPEED OF CAPTAIN MARVEL!
SHAZAM!
THE MAGIC WORD ENTRUSTED HIM BY THE ANCIENT SORCERER PRODUCES A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHTNING...
BOOOM!
... AND THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL SOARS TO ANSWER THE MYSTERIOUS MESSAGE!
A LITTLE TWIST TO THE RIGHT--- AND HERES 14 ELM STREET!
I'VE ONLY USED UP A FEW SECONDS SO FAR! GUESS I'LL GO IN AS BILLY...
SHAZAM!

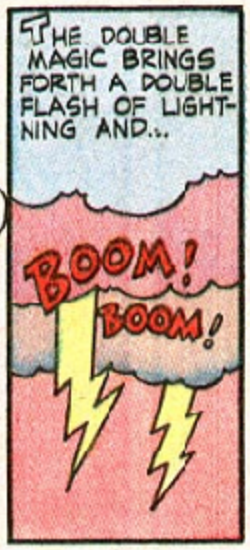

I CALLED FOR YOU, BILLY BATSON, RATHER THAN A DOCTOR, BECAUSE MY HOUR HAS COME... AND I HAVE A STORY I MUST TELL YOU... ABOUT YOUR PARENTS!
WHA---? BUT MY PARENTS ARE DEAD! I'M AN ORPHAN!
TRUE, YOUR PARENTS ARE DEAD... BUT YOUR SISTER ISN'T!
GULP!! SISTER!!??
SARAH PRIMM'S STORY ROLLS BACK THE YEARS TO BILLY BATSON, AS A BABY... AND HIS TWIN SISTER!
IN FACT A TWIN SISTER! I WAS YOUR NURSE. WHEN YOUR PARENTS DIED. I TOOK YOU BOTH TO MY HOME, BEFORE APPLYING TO AN ORPHANAGE...
BILLY AND MARY BATSON--- POOR BABIES! LEFT FATHERLESS AND MOTHERLESS!
"...BUT I WAS ALSO THE NURSE FOR A RICH LADY, WHOSE BABY DAUGHTER SUDDENLY DIED...
DEAD!! OH, HOW CAN I TELL HER MOTHER??
"...A WILD SCHEME CAME TO ME! I SUBSTITUTED YOUR TWIN SISTER FOR THE DEAD CHILD!
YOU'LL HAVE A HOME, MARY BATSON, EVEN IF BILLY MUST GO TO AN ORPHANAGE! NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW!
WHO RAISED MY TWIN SISTER? WHERE IS SHE NOW? HOW WILL I KNOW HER?
YOU'LL KNOW HER BY THIS BROKEN LOCKET. SHE WEARS THE OTHER HALF. SHE WAS RAISED BY A WEALTHY LADY NAMED...
BUT DEATH STRIKES, SEALING THE LIPS OF THE ONLY PERSON ON EARTH WHO KNOWS THE NAME OF BILLY'S UNKNOWN SISTER!
AHHHHHH...!
SHE'S DEAD!!

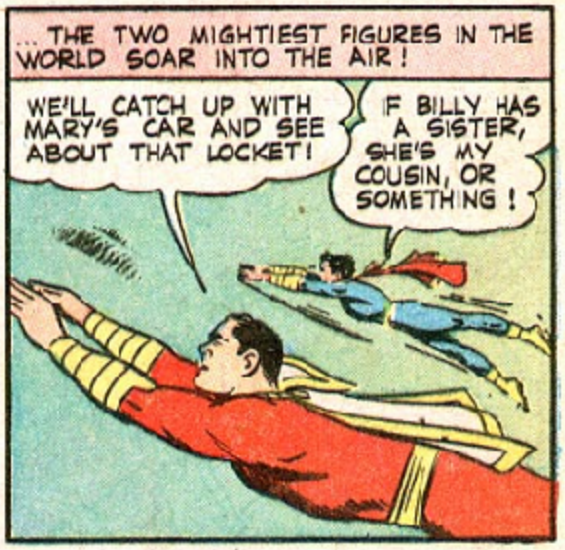

SHE'S GIVEN ME THE GREATEST NEWS OF MY LIFE! I'VE GOT A TWIN SISTER!! AND I'LL FIND HER SOMEHOW WITH THIS LOCKET!
HOLY MOLEY! MY FIVE MINUTES ARE ALMOST UP! I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE MENTAL MARVEL QUIZ PROGRAM!.... SHAZAM!....
BOOOM!
SO BILLY HAS A LONG-LOST SISTER! WHAT DOES THAT MAKE ME? WELL, I'LL BE-! THAT MUST MAKE ME HER BIG BROTHER!!
HURRY BILLY! YOU'RE ON!
STUDIO B
MR. MORRIS, JUST THINK--- I'M A TWIN SISTER TO... NO...I MEAN MY TWIN BROTHER...NO! I MEAN I'M TWINS AND... OH, GOLLY! I'LL EXPLAIN LATER!
BILLY COMPOSES HIMSELF FOR THE FINISH OF HIS NEW PROGRAM...
SINCE EACH CONTESTANT HAS ANSWERED HIS QUESTION CORRECTLY, THE ONE WHO ANSWERS THE FINAL QUESTION FIRST WILL BE TONIGHT'S CHAMPION! ARE YOU READY!??
WHO'S MY TWIN SISTER? THAT'S WHAT I'D REALLY LIKE TO KNOW!
IS A ZEBRA BLACK WITH WHITE STRIPES? OR WHITE WITH BLACK STRIPES?
WHITE WITH BLACK STRIPES!
I KNOW!
CORRECT, MARY BROMFIELD!

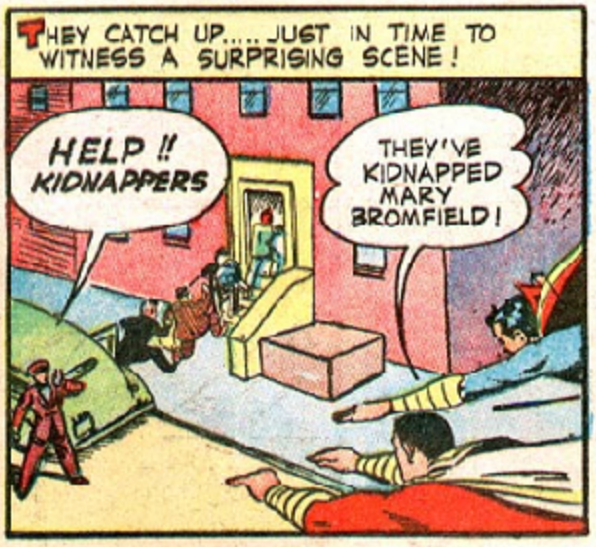

THE PROGRAM OVER, BILLY ESCORTS MARY BROMFIELD TO HER LIMOUSINE...
GOODBYE, BILLY BATSON!
GOLLY! SHE MUST HAVE RICH PARENTS!

SIGHHHH! GOSH! WHY COULDN'T SHE BE MY SISTER?
WELL, THANKS FOR THE INVITATION TO YOUR PROGRAM, BILLY! GUESS I'LL GET BACK TO MY NEWS STAND NOW... HUH? WHAT WAS THAT? SISTER!!

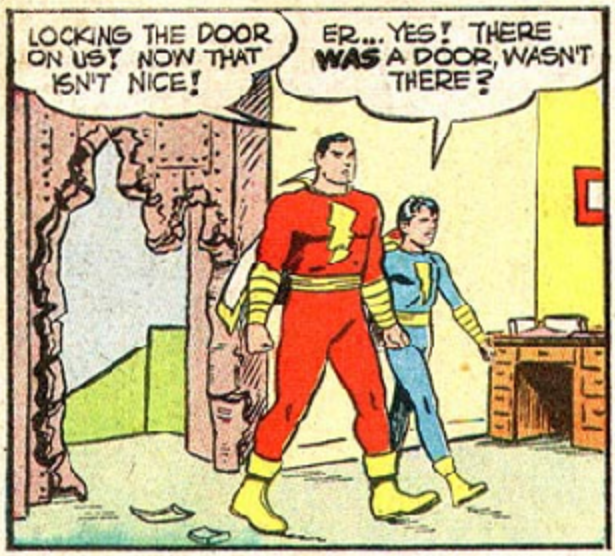
I JUST FOUND OUT I HAVE A SISTER, FREDDY! SHE WEARS THE OTHER HALF OF THIS BROKEN LOCKET... HOLY MOLEY!!! MARY BROMFIELD WAS WEARING A BROKEN LOCKET! SHAZAM!!
??? I'M GOING ALONG... WHATEVER THIS IS.... CAPTAIN MARVEL!


THE DOUBLE MAGIC BRINGS FORTH A DOUBLE FLASH OF LIGHTNING AND...
BOOM!
BOOM!


... THE TWO MIGHTIEST FIGURES IN THE WORLD SOAR INTO THE AIR!
WE'LL CATCH UP WITH MARY'S CAR AND SEE ABOUT THAT LOCKET!
IF BILLY HAS A SISTER, SHE'S MY COUSIN, OR SOMETHING!


THEY CATCH UP..... JUST IN TIME TO WITNESS A SURPRISING SCENE!
HELP!! KIDNAPPERS
THEY'VE KIDNAPPED MARY BROMFIELD!

WITHIN THE HIDE-OUT...
YOU RUFFIANS! WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME?!!!
WHADDYA THINK?--- RANSOM! WE'LL HOLD YOU FOR A HUNDRED GRAND! --- LOCK THE DOOR GOOD, MONK!


LOCKING THE DOOR ON US! NOW THAT ISN'T NICE!
ER... YES! THERE WAS A DOOR, WASN'T THERE?

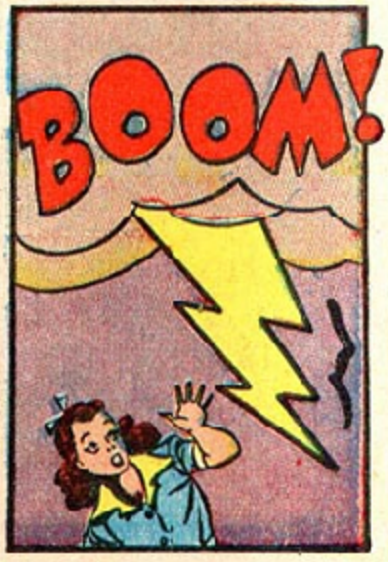
AFTER YOU, MY DEAR ALPHONSE!
AFTER YOU, MY DEAR GASTON!
NOW I'M DOWN!

OH WELL, WHY QUIBBLE? THERE'S TWO APIECE FOR US!

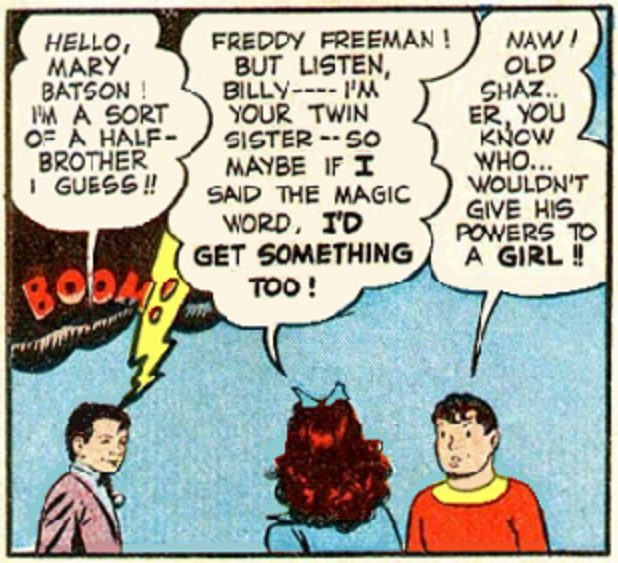
CAPTAIN MARVEL! AND CAPTAIN MARVEL JR.! YOU SAVED ME! YOU WERE WONDERFUL!
FORGET IT! BUT MARY... I HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION TO ASK YOU. DO YOU HAVE THE OTHER HALF OF THIS BROKEN LOCKET?

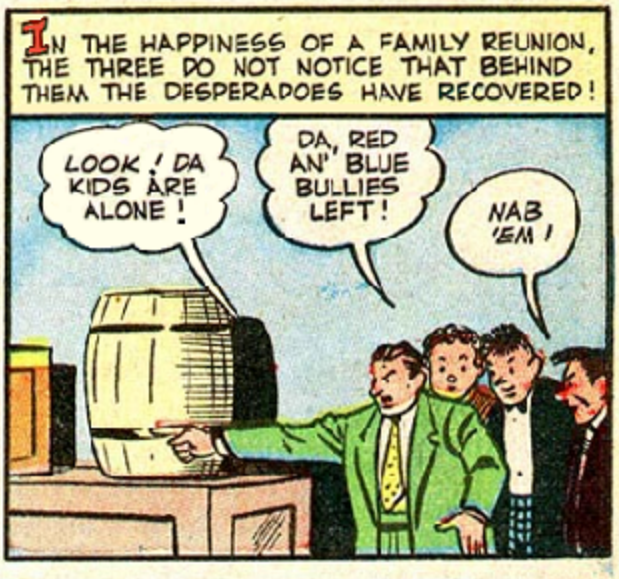
WHY YES--- AND THEY FIT!! WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
GULP! IT MEANS YOU ARE MARY BATSON-- THE TWIN SISTER OF BILLY BATSON!

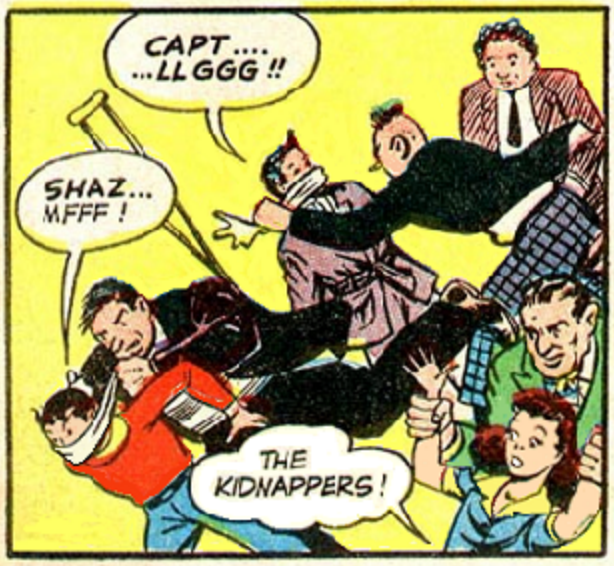
IT MUST BE THE TRUTH! NURSE SARAH PRIMM ONCE TOLD ME THE BROKEN LOCKET WOULD CHANGE MY WHOLE LIFE! BILLY BATSON-- MY BROTHER! HOW WONDERFUL! BUT WHERE IS BILLY? WHY DIDN'T HE COME?
HE DID COME... SHAZAM!


BOOM!

BILLY ! I SAW CAPTAIN MARVEL CHANGE RIGHT INTO YOU !
SURE, MARY ! BEING IN THE FAMILY, WHY SHOULDN'T YOU KNOW MY SECRET !
BROTHER MEETS SISTER !
BILLY ! MY BROTHER !
GULP !
SMACK !
THIS IS THE HAPPIEST MOMENT OF MY LIFE !
MINE TOO ! BUT WATCH WHILE CAPT MARVEL JR. CHANGES ! THAT'S ANOTHER SECRET IN OUR MARVEL FAMILY !
OKAY, BILLY ! CAPTAIN MARVEL !


HELLO, MARY BATSON ! I'M A SORT OF A HALF-BROTHER I GUESS !!
BOOM !
FREDDY FREEMAN ! BUT LISTEN, BILLY---- I'M YOUR TWIN SISTER -- SO MAYBE IF I SAID THE MAGIC WORD, I'D GET SOMETHING TOO !
NAW ! OLD SHAZ.. ER, YOU KNOW WHO... WOULDN'T GIVE HIS POWERS TO A GIRL !!


IN THE HAPPINESS OF A FAMILY REUNION, THE THREE DO NOT NOTICE THAT BEHIND THEM THE DESPERADOES HAVE RECOVERED !
LOOK ! DA KIDS ARE ALONE !
DA, RED AN' BLUE BULLIES LEFT !
NAB 'EM !


CAPT.... ...LLGGG !!
SHAZ... MFFF !
THE KIDNAPPERS !

BILLY ! FREDDY ! SPEAK YOUR MAGIC WORDS !.... OH, THEY CAN'T THEY'RE GAGGED ! BILLY CAN'T SAY SHAZAM !...

MARY BATSON SAID THE WORD "SHAZAM" FOR THE FIRST TIME... AND INSTANTLY THERE IS AN ANSWERING ROLL OF THUNDER... A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHTNING....

WHOOM!

...AND CAPTAIN MARVEL IS SUDDENLY PROVEN VERY, VERY WRONG!!!

IT HAPPENED! I FEEL SO HEALTHY-STRONG-POWERFUL-

HOLY COW! WHERE DID DAT FANCY DAME POP UP FROM?

SCRAM, SISTER--- OR I'LL SLAP YA SILLY... OWW!

SLAP!

I DIDN'T FEEL THAT A BIT! I MUST BE LIKE CAPTAIN MARVEL!

WONDER WHAT WILL HAPPEN, IF I SLAP HIM BACK? DEAR ME! AM I THAT STRONG?!!

OUCH!! DA WEAKER SEX, DEY CALLS IT!

BUT DIS'LL FLATTEN HER!!

WHACK!

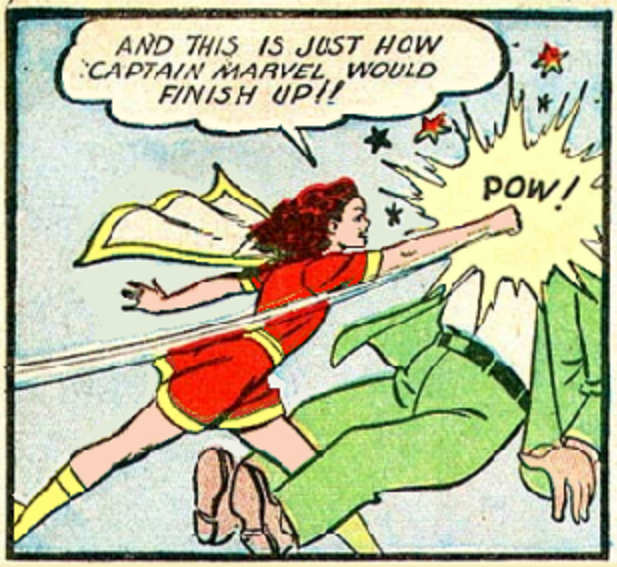
MY! WHAT A LOVELY COSTUME, TOO!

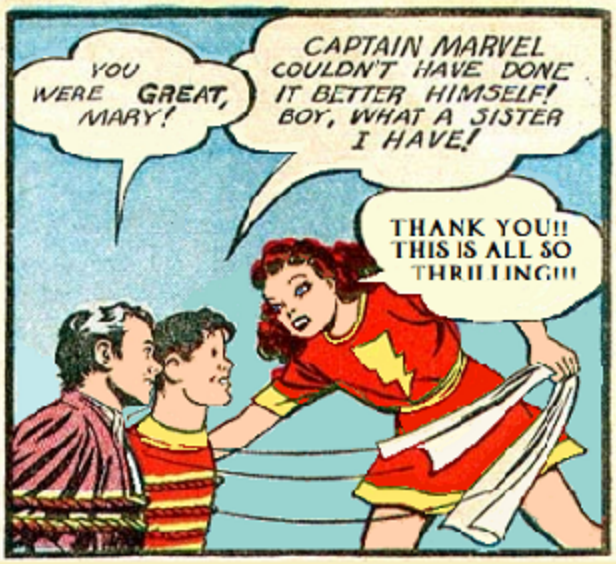
... AND A CAPE! JUST LIKE CAPTAIN MARVEL'S!

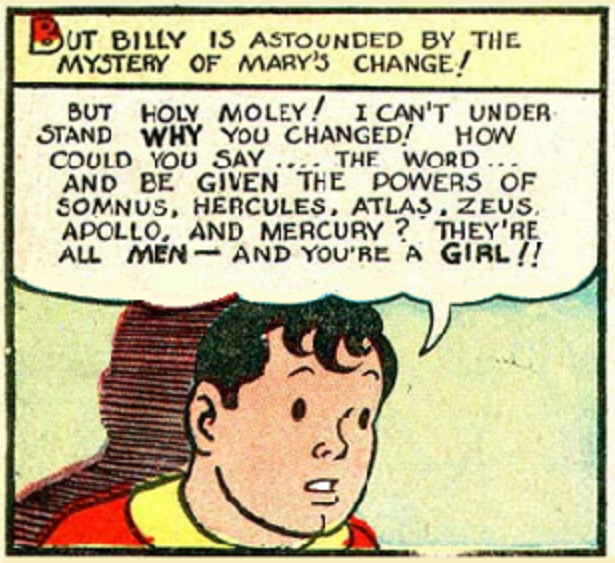
I GOTTA SEE A DOCTOR ABOUT MY EYES! I SEEM TO SEE HER STILL STANDIN' THERE!

ENOUGH OF DIS SHILLY-SHALLYIN'! FEED 'ER LEAD!!

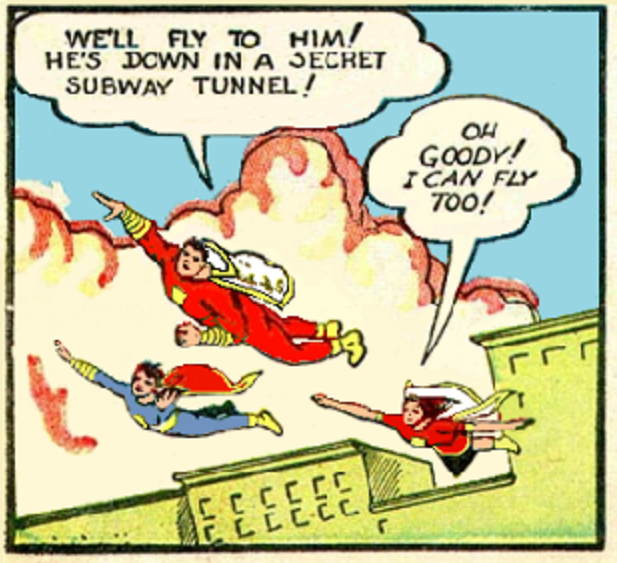
OHHH! THEY'RE SHOOTING AT ME! HELP!
DS'LL FIX HER WAGON!
YEAH! HEH, HEH!
BANG
BANG
BANG!
BUT WHY SHOULD I BE SCARED? NATURALLY, THE BULLETS JUST BOUNCE OFF! THAT'S THE FINAL PROOF--- I'M JUST LIKE CAPTAIN MARVEL!!
BANG!
BANG!
YOU BG BAD BULLIES! I'M ONLY A GIRL, SO....
I MUST HAVE MY DANCING LESSON!
YULPS!
ALSO MY EXCERCISE... WITH DUMBELLS!!
HEY!! LEGGO! DIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!
LET US DOWN!!
ALL RIGHT!
BONK!
BONK!

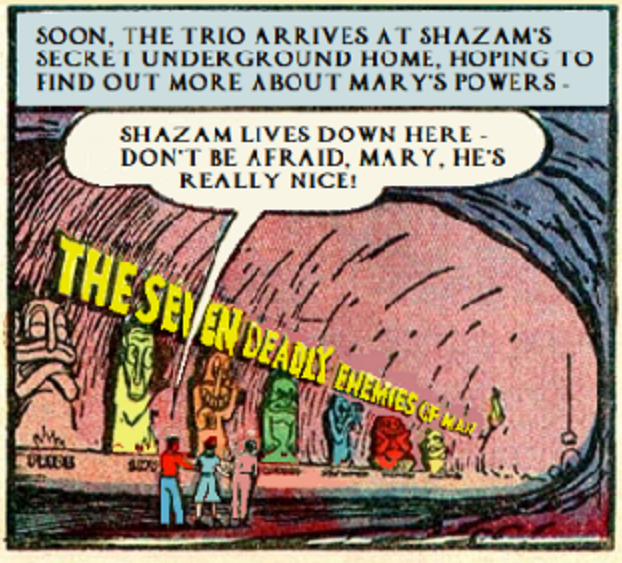

AND THIS IS JUST HOW CAPTAIN MARVEL WOULD FINISH UP!!
POW!


YOU WERE GREAT, MARY!
CAPTAIN MARVEL COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT BETTER HIMSELF! BOY, WHAT A SISTER I HAVE!
THANK YOU!! THIS IS ALL SO THRILLING!!!


BUT BILLY IS ASTOUNDED BY THE MYSTERY OF MARY'S CHANGE!
BUT HOLY MOLEY! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU CHANGED! HOW COULD YOU SAY .... THE WORD ... AND BE GIVEN THE POWERS OF SOMNUS, HERCULES, ATLAS, ZEUS, APOLLO, AND MERCURY? THEY'RE ALL MEN — AND YOU'RE A GIRL!!

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND THE ANSWER! C'MON, FREDDY AND MARY! WE'LL VISIT OLD ... SHAZAM!
CAPTAIN MARVEL!


WE'LL FLY TO HIM! HE'S DOWN IN A SECRET SUBWAY TUNNEL!
OH GOODY! I CAN FLY TOO!


SOON, THE TRIO ARRIVES AT SHAZAM'S SECRET UNDERGROUND HOME, HOPING TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MARY'S POWERS -
SHAZAM LIVES DOWN HERE - DON'T BE AFRAID, MARY, HE'S REALLY NICE!
THE SEVEN DEADLY ENEMIES OF MAN

SHAZAM GREETS HIS THREE YOUNG WARDS WITH OPEN ARMS -

FORGIVE US FOR THIS INTRUSION, SIR! BUT THIS IS MY LONG-LOST TWIN SISTER MARY BATSON, AND..

I KNOW, BILLY. I KNEW IT ALL THE TIME!

YOU KNEW, SIR?

OF COURSE, BILLY! ALL THREE OF YOU ARE AMONG MY DESCENDANTS - AND ARE PURE OF HEART! I HAVE KEPT A CLOSE EYE ON ALL OF YOU AND YOUR PARENTS!

AND YOU ALSO WANT TO KNOW HOW MARY CAN HAVE THE SAME SHAZAM POWERS AS YOU, BILLY -- THOUGH SHE IS A GIRL — LOOK AT THIS CHART!

SHAZAM

SIF
IPP
RIA
EPH
URO
INE

MARY DERIVES HER POWERS FROM A DIFFERENT GROUP OF MY OLD FRIENDS THAN YOU, BILLY... AS YOU SEE! BUT IT STILL ADDS UP TO MY NAME— SHAZAM...

SHAZAM

Sif — POWER
Hippolyta — STRENGTH
Ariadne — SKILL
Zephyra — FLEETNESS
Aurora — FLIGHT
Minerva — STAMINA

GO NOW, MY CHILD! FIGHT EVIL AND WRONG IN THE WORLD, AS YOUR BROTHER AND FREDDY DO. MY SPIRIT IS ALWAYS WITH YOU!

TH-THANK YOU, SIR!

LATER, AT THE EXIT OF THE TUNNEL....

WELL, LET'S GO.. SHAZAM!

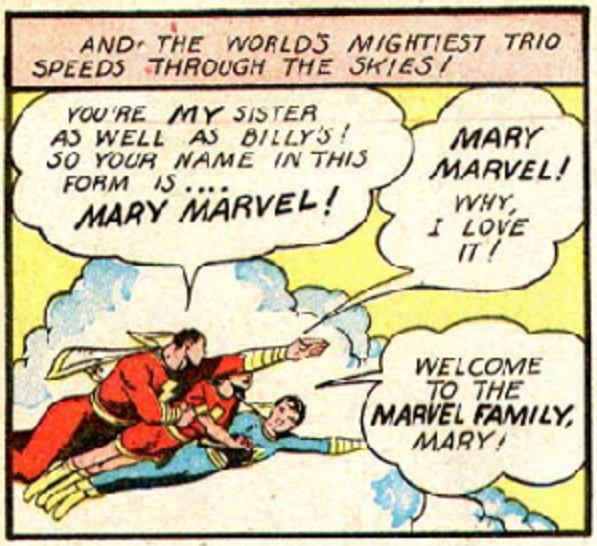
SHAZAM!

CAPTAIN MARVEL!

SUBWAY

THE HEAVENS SEEM TO SPLIT ASUNDER AT THE THREE-FOLD BLAST OF LIGHTNING AND THUNDER THAT ANSWERS!

BOOOM! BOOM! BOOOM!


AND THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST TRIO SPEEDS THROUGH THE SKIES!
YOU'RE MY SISTER AS WELL AS BILLY'S! SO YOUR NAME IN THIS FORM IS.... MARY MARVEL!
MARY MARVEL! WHY, I LOVE IT!
WELCOME TO THE MARVEL FAMILY, MARY!

WELL, SO LONG! I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO MY OWN ADVENTURES!
WHERE SHALL I GO, CAPT MARVEL?
COME WITH ME FOR AWHILE, MARY. THEN WE'LL FIX YOU UP WITH A SPOT OF YOUR OWN!

AND SO BEGAN THE LEGEND OF:

MARY MARVEL

AND TOGETHER WITH THE MIGHTY SHAZAM

Captain Marvel AND CAPTAIN MARVEL JR.

THEY FORM THE CORE OF THE SUPER-TEAM KNOWN AS:

THE MARVEL FAMILY